

NEW

**EVERYTHING**  
YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

# THE WILD WEST

**EXPLORE THE HISTORIC AMERICAN FRONTIER  
AND MEET THE LEGENDS THAT SHAPED IT**

**+PLUS**

- OUTLAWS
- BATTLES
- DEFINING MOMENTS

**Digital  
Edition**



SECOND  
EDITION

## WYATT EARP

Why the story of the iconic gunfighter's quest for revenge endures today

## GOLD RUSH

How an influx of prospectors changed California forever

## TRAIL OF TEARS

Why the mistreatment of Natives should never be forgotten



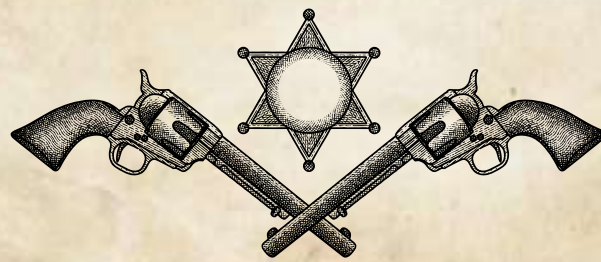


Preparation



# Welcome to THE WILD WEST

In modern times, the story of the United States' drive to expand westward and the ensuing period that immediately followed has been immortalised in countless films, books, television shows and video games. The iconography of the rural homestead, gunslingers reaching for their six-shooters and the downtrodden indigenous Americans are all cultural touchstones. The 'legend' of the American west is exactly that, though: a story. The truth is a little different. In this bookazine, we'll take you through everything you need to know about this important time for the USA. From those crucial first steps westward by Lewis and Clarke, though to the establishment of the Oregon Trail, the Californian Gold Rush, the Civil War and more, get ready to embark on an epic journey to the Wild West.





「 FUTURE 」



# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WILD WEST

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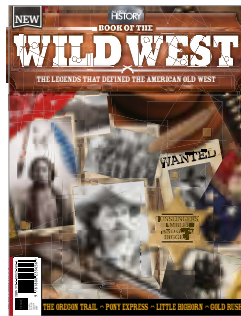
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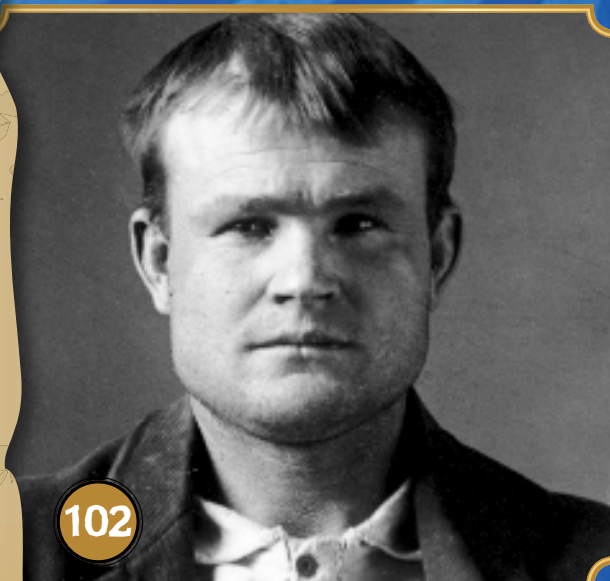
Why this critical event of bloodshed should never be forgotten

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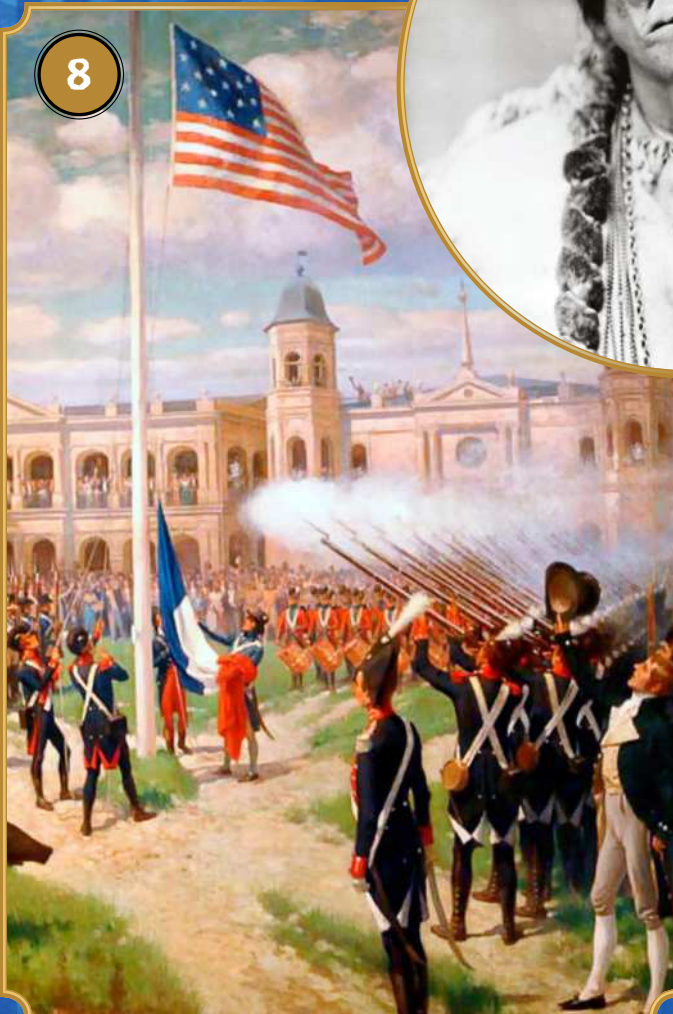
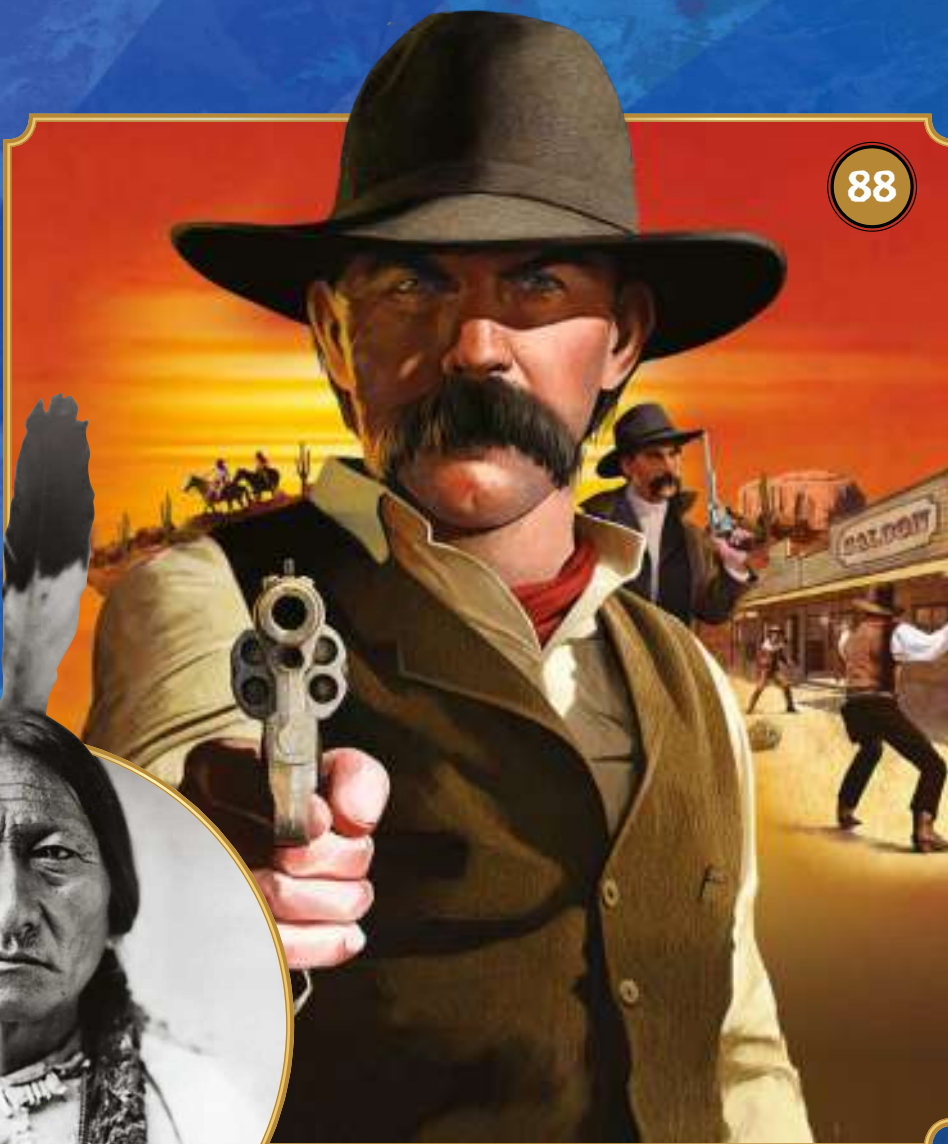
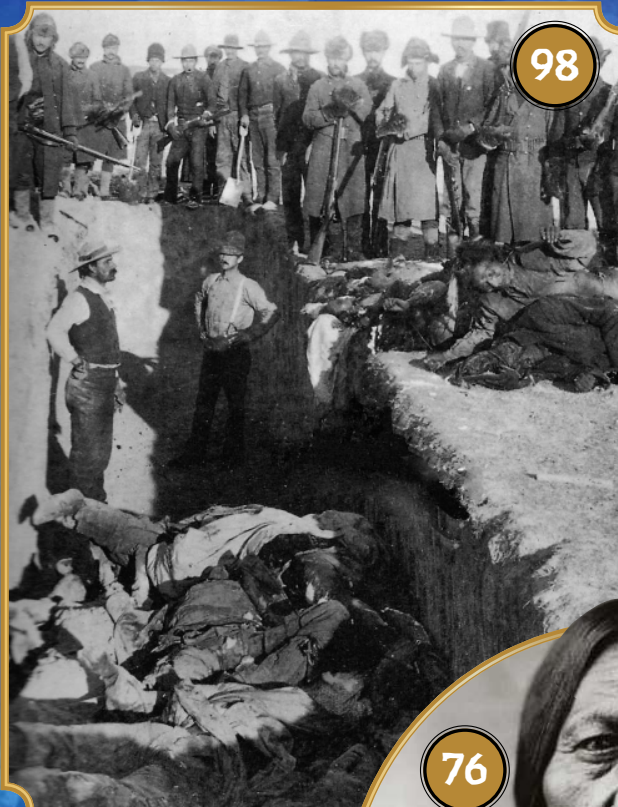
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Discover the closing chapter of the Wild West, and how this chapter of US history was closed









# HOW WAS THE WILD WEST WON?

From Jefferson to Geronimo, discover the wars, people and events that moved the American frontier west during the 19th century

4 July 1803

## Louisiana Purchase

*Washington, DC*

On 4 July 1803, exactly 27 years after the American colonies declared their independence from Britain, President Thomas Jefferson signed an agreement to buy a vast tract of North America from France. By paying \$15 million to Paris, Jefferson secured 2.14 million kilometres square of territory stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border, nearly doubling the size of the United States in the largest single land gain in American history. Jefferson initially only sought to buy New Orleans and its environs, but Napoleon was bogged down in war with Britain and the French colonies of the New World held little value to him. When the French emperor offered a much larger area for less than three cents an acre, the American negotiators were quick to agree. The land they bought eventually became part of 15 US states and two Canadian provinces, taking in New Orleans, Denver, St Louis and Calgary.



## Lewis and Clark

### St Louis, Missouri Territory

Two years, four months and ten days after setting out, 32 men (and a dog) returned to St Louis having travelled from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean and back again. Captain Meriwether Lewis and his friend, Second Lieutenant William Clark, had been commissioned to map the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase and to find a safe route across the continent, allowing the USA to lay claim to the Pacific coast before any European powers did. The expedition largely travelled by boat, following the course of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers across the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. They encountered at least 24 Native American tribes, without whose help the expedition would have starved during the winter months - only the Teton-Sioux treated the white explorers with a degree of suspicion. Along the way, Lewis and Clark discovered more than 200 new plant and animal species and drew 140 maps of their route. One member of the party died on the trip, probably caused by appendicitis.



24 August 1812

**The White House and Capitol are attacked by the British in the War of 1812**

Washington, DC

8 May 1820

**The Missouri Compromise allows slavery in western territories south of latitude 36°30'**

Washington, DC

12 February 1809

**Abraham Lincoln is born in a simple one-room log cabin**

Hodgenville, Kentucky

23 September 1806

16 September 1810

20 June 1819

**SS Savannah becomes the first steamship to cross the Atlantic**

Liverpool, UK

27 September 1821

**Mexico wins independence from Spain**

Mexico City, Mexico

1822

## Cry of Dolores

### Dolores Hidalgo, Mexico

The small town of Dolores Hidalgo near Guanajuato stamped its name in Mexican history in September 1810 when Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Catholic priest, rang his church bells in the early hours to gather his congregation. He spoke to the assembled crowds, giving what became known as the Grito de Dolores (Cry of Dolores), calling on the people of his parish to leave their homes and join him in a rebellion against the Spanish colonial government. Six hundred men joined his insurrection and, although he would be captured and executed within a year, his was the first step in the Mexican War of Independence. That conflict would end, 11 years later, with Mexico as an independent country.

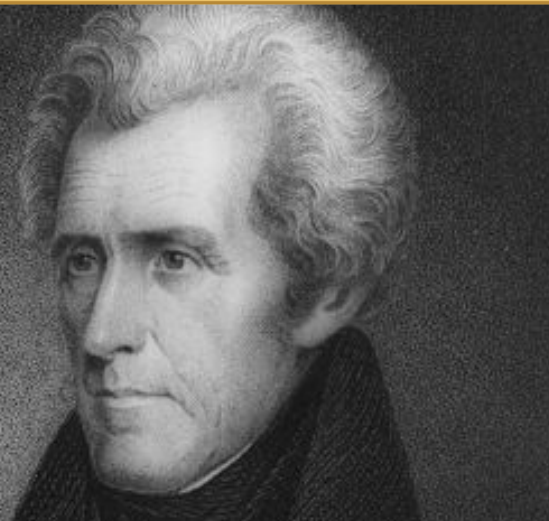
## Rocky Mountain Fur Company

### St Louis, Missouri

An advert in an 1822 edition of the Missouri Republican sought out 100 men who were prepared "to ascend the river Missouri to its source, there to be employed for one, two, or three years". The work they were going to carry out was fur trapping, a lucrative trade since beaver fur was highly fashionable at the time. The trappers were often the first white men to explore the treacherous terrain, and it was dangerous work. Among those employed by the Rocky Mountain Fur Company was Hugh Glass, who would be abandoned after a bear attack without supplies in the wilderness during an 1823 expedition and forced to travel 200 miles back to Fort Kiowa alone.







## Indian Removal Act

*Washington, DC*

President Andrew Jackson was an ardent believer in 'manifest destiny', the idea that the USA should expand into the west, but the inconvenient truth was that Native American tribes already occupied much of the land he coveted. His solution was the Indian Removal Act, which allowed the President to negotiate with tribes to move west of the Mississippi in exchange for their ancestral lands in the east. The act was controversial and narrowly passed the House of Representatives. It was particularly opposed by Christian missionaries. However, Jackson was blunt - he saw the demise of the Native American tribes as inevitable, a judgement sadly proven true.



## Bonneville Expedition

*St Louis, Missouri*

Benjamin Bonneville left Missouri in May 1832 with 110 men and orders from John Jacob Astor to establish a new fur trapping operation to rival the Hudson's Bay Company. The expedition trekked across present-day Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada and Oregon and a secondary party discovered a route along the Humboldt River and across the Sierra Nevada to California. Bonneville may have been laying the groundwork for a possible invasion of California, then part of Mexico, and the path he discovered was eventually used as the primary route to the gold fields during the California Gold Rush. However, the expedition failed in its primary aim to trap beaver fur - the Hudson's Bay Company refused to allow their traders to do business with Bonneville and many Native Americans also refused them.



4 March 1831

## Davy Crockett loses his seat in the Congressional Election after opposing the Indian Removal Act

*Tennessee*



28 May 1830

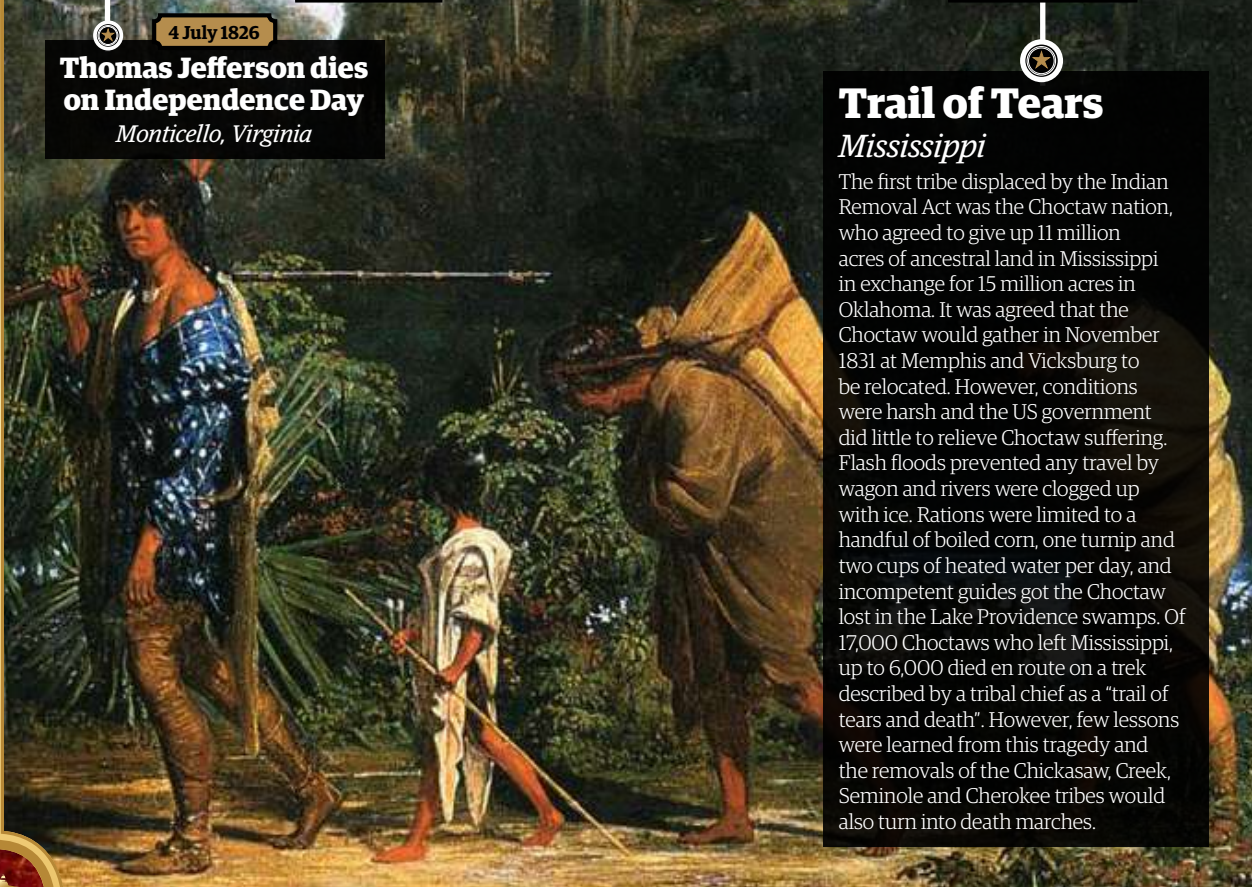
1 November 1831

May 1832

4 July 1826

## Thomas Jefferson dies on Independence Day

*Monticello, Virginia*



## Trail of Tears

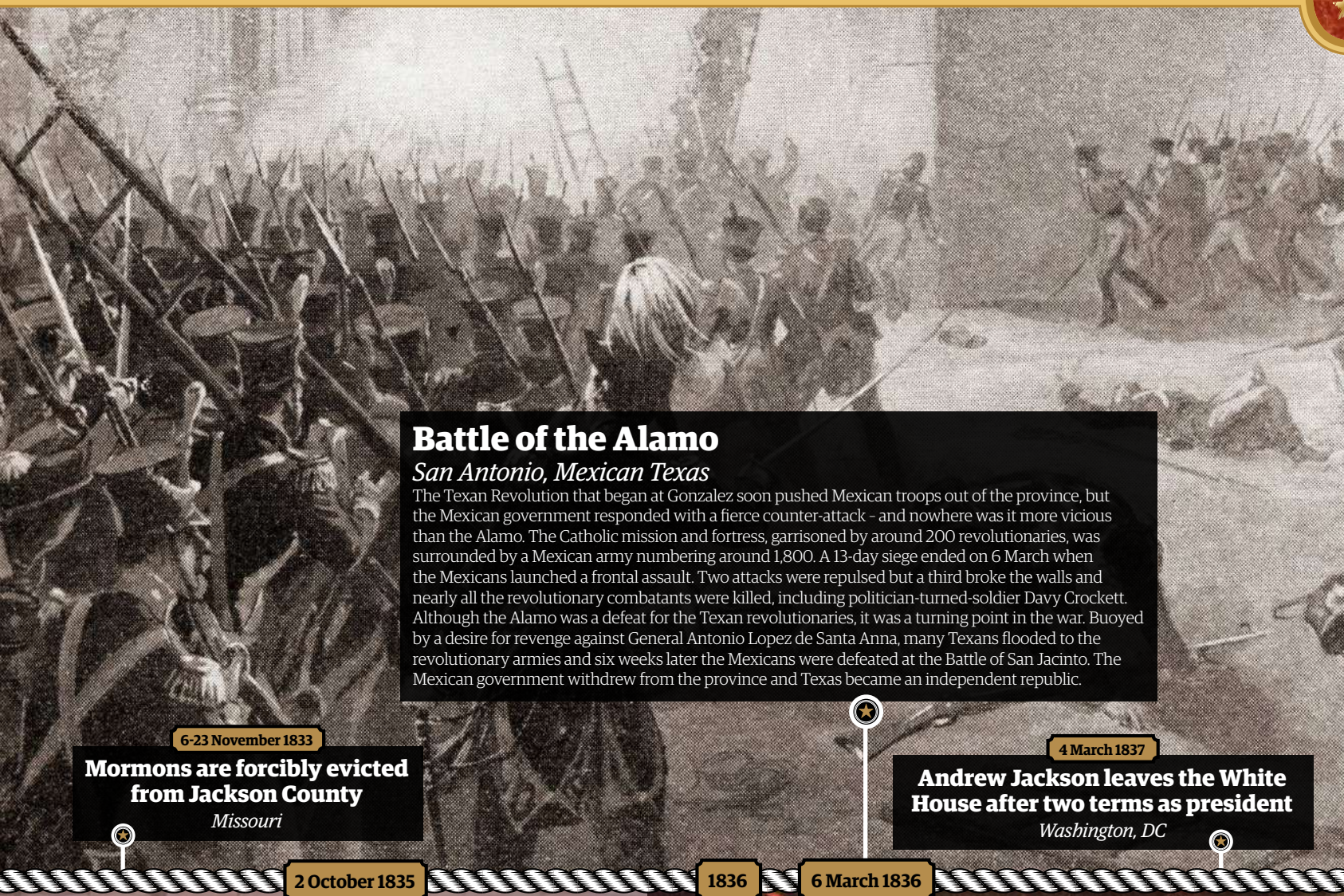
*Mississippi*

The first tribe displaced by the Indian Removal Act was the Choctaw nation, who agreed to give up 11 million acres of ancestral land in Mississippi in exchange for 15 million acres in Oklahoma. It was agreed that the Choctaw would gather in November 1831 at Memphis and Vicksburg to be relocated. However, conditions were harsh and the US government did little to relieve Choctaw suffering. Flash floods prevented any travel by wagon and rivers were clogged up with ice. Rations were limited to a handful of boiled corn, one turnip and two cups of heated water per day, and incompetent guides got the Choctaw lost in the Lake Providence swamps. Of 17,000 Choctaws who left Mississippi, up to 6,000 died en route on a trek described by a tribal chief as a "trail of tears and death". However, few lessons were learned from this tragedy and the removals of the Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole and Cherokee tribes would also turn into death marches.

COME







## Battle of the Alamo

*San Antonio, Mexican Texas*

The Texan Revolution that began at Gonzalez soon pushed Mexican troops out of the province, but the Mexican government responded with a fierce counter-attack - and nowhere was it more vicious than the Alamo. The Catholic mission and fortress, garrisoned by around 200 revolutionaries, was surrounded by a Mexican army numbering around 1,800. A 13-day siege ended on 6 March when the Mexicans launched a frontal assault. Two attacks were repulsed but a third broke the walls and nearly all the revolutionary combatants were killed, including politician-turned-soldier Davy Crockett. Although the Alamo was a defeat for the Texan revolutionaries, it was a turning point in the war. Buoyed by a desire for revenge against General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, many Texans flooded to the revolutionary armies and six weeks later the Mexicans were defeated at the Battle of San Jacinto. The Mexican government withdrew from the province and Texas became an independent republic.

6-23 November 1833

**Mormons are forcibly evicted from Jackson County**

*Missouri*

2 October 1835

## Texan Revolution

*Gonzalez, Mexican Texas*

When Mexico won independence from Spain, the province of Texas had a population of only 3,500. Hoping that an influx of settlers would stop Native American raids, the bankrupt Mexican government allowed immigrants from the United States into Texas. Soon Tejanos (Mexican-Spanish Texans) were outnumbered by Anglos (English-speaking Texans). Relations between the two groups were tense and, in October 1835, the Anglos rose in rebellion against the Mexican Army, earning a victory in a small skirmish at Gonzalez. The Texan journey to become the Lone Star State had begun.

4 March 1837

**Andrew Jackson leaves the White House after two terms as president**

*Washington, DC*

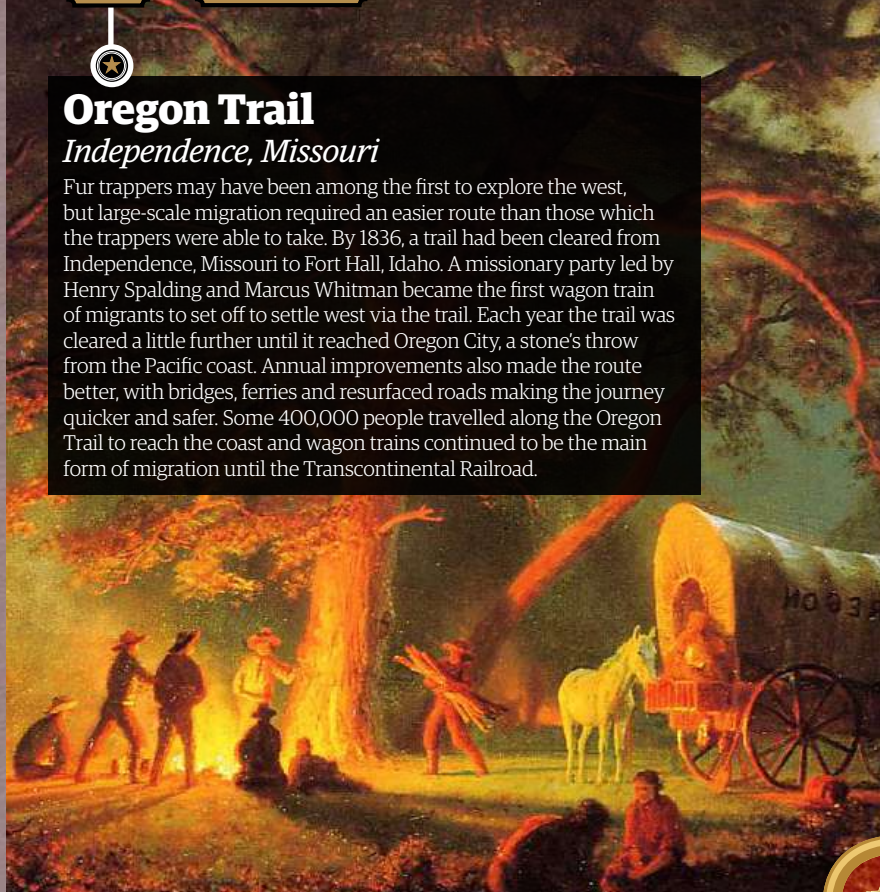
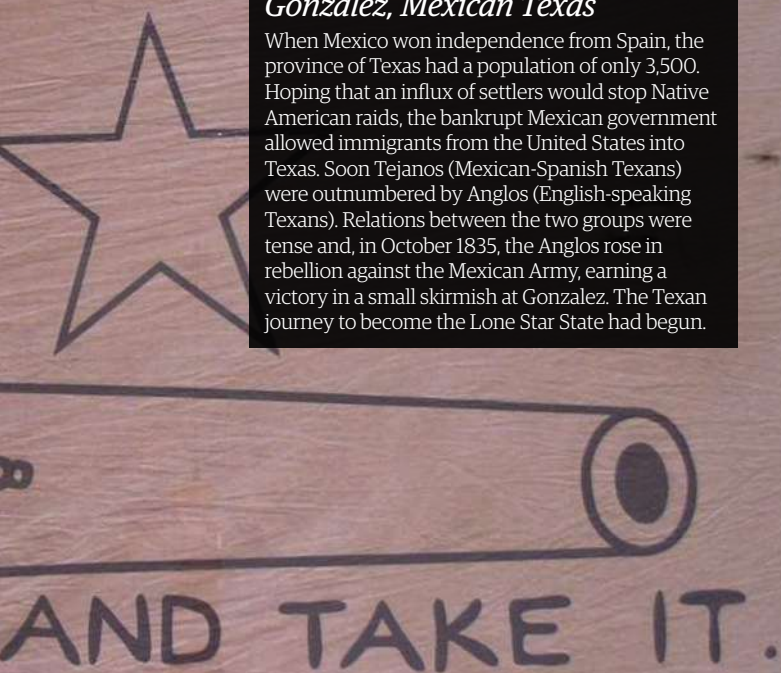
1836

6 March 1836

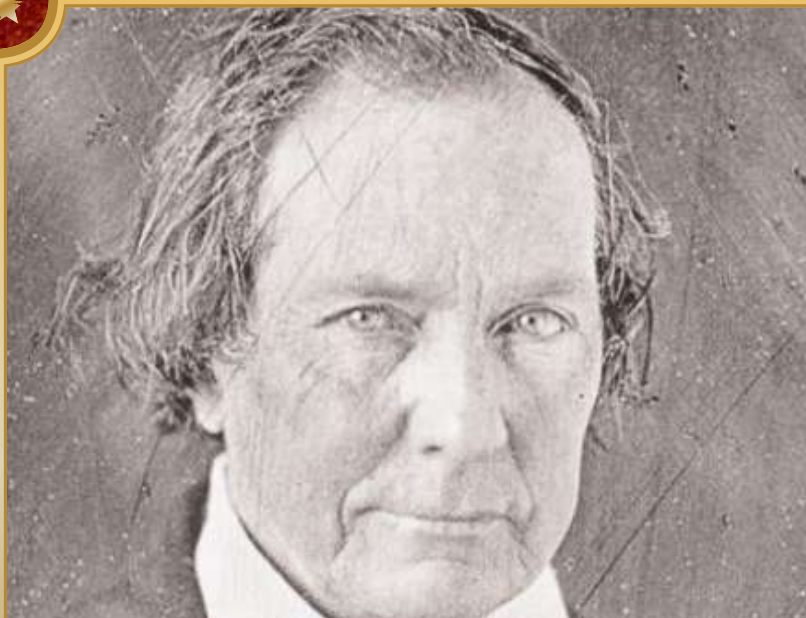
## Oregon Trail

*Independence, Missouri*

Fur trappers may have been among the first to explore the west, but large-scale migration required an easier route than those which the trappers were able to take. By 1836, a trail had been cleared from Independence, Missouri to Fort Hall, Idaho. A missionary party led by Henry Spalding and Marcus Whitman became the first wagon train of migrants to set off to settle west via the trail. Each year the trail was cleared a little further until it reached Oregon City, a stone's throw from the Pacific coast. Annual improvements also made the route better, with bridges, ferries and resurfaced roads making the journey quicker and safer. Some 400,000 people travelled along the Oregon Trail to reach the coast and wagon trains continued to be the main form of migration until the Transcontinental Railroad.







## Battle of the Neches

*Tyler, Texas*

In order to avoid relocation under the Indian Removal Act, many members of the Cherokee nation moved to the new republic of Texas during the 1830s. Initially welcomed by President Sam Houston, attitudes began to change when Mirabeau Lamar was voted into power. He demanded that the Cherokee move out of Texas and into the territory provided for them by the USA. After only three days of negotiation, Texan troops moved against the Cherokee. Eighteen were killed as the Cherokee retreated into a ravine, the following day around 100 were killed near the source of the River Neches. Faced with annihilation, the Cherokee reluctantly moved out of Texas and into Indian Territory.



## Donner Party Tragedy

*Nevada mountains*

When 87 settlers left Missouri for California in May 1846, they were full of hope for the future. Within months their dream had turned into a nightmare. The pioneers were led by George Donner and James Reed, but the choice of route they made was not the best. They lost time by following an alternative path that diverted from the Oregon Trail, and Reed killed a fellow settler in an argument and was banished from the group. Wagons and cattle were lost on the Humboldt River before the party tried to cross the Sierra Nevada mountains in November. A heavy snowfall trapped them on a high pass and, as food supplies ran low, a group set out on foot to seek help. Rescue parties eventually arrived after four months, but not before several of the survivors had resorted to cannibalism. The Donner Party was not the only wagon train to suffer fatalities on the trek west, but tales of desperate settlers eating each other led to it becoming one of the most infamous.



25 April December 1846

## Mexico declares war on the USA

*Mexico City*



27 June 1844

## Mormon leader Joseph Smith is killed by a mob breaking into Carthage Jail

*Carthage, Illinois*



6 August-1 November 1838

15-16 July 1839

29 December 1845

Winter 1846-47

## Mormon War

*Missouri*

New Yorker Joseph Smith's religious visions led him to establish a new Christian church, the members of which were called Mormons. Smith and his followers moved west in 1831, settling around Independence, Missouri, a place which they thought would be the location for the City of Zion. However, tensions between the Mormons and the rest of the Missouri population quickly grew, particularly as non-Mormons suspected that the newcomers sold their votes to the highest bidder. During election day in Gallatin County in 1838, a crowd tried to prevent Mormons from voting and a brawl developed. Attempts to calm the situation failed and skirmishes broke out between Mormon and non-Mormon mobs, culminating in the Haun's Mill Massacre where 17 Mormons were killed. Despite the Mormon deaths, Joseph Smith and his church's leaders were blamed for the violence and nearly all Mormons were forced to leave the state, retreating east to Illinois.



5 December 1839

## George Custer is born

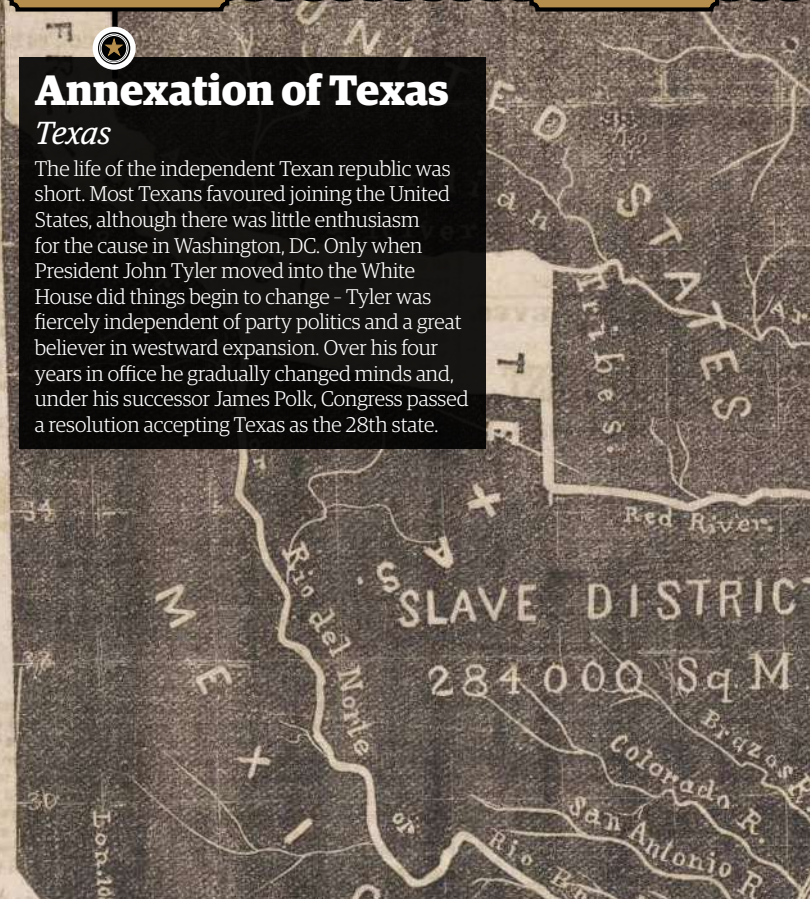
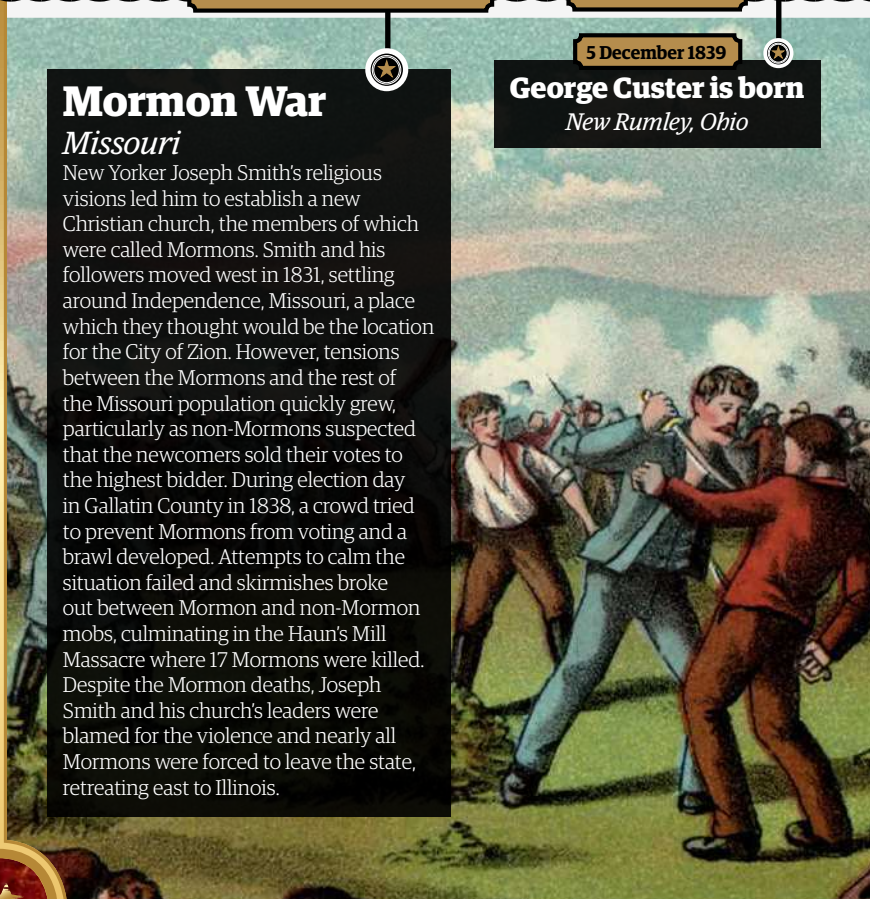
*New Rumley, Ohio*



## Annexation of Texas

*Texas*

The life of the independent Texan republic was short. Most Texans favoured joining the United States, although there was little enthusiasm for the cause in Washington, DC. Only when President John Tyler moved into the White House did things begin to change - Tyler was fiercely independent of party politics and a great believer in westward expansion. Over his four years in office he gradually changed minds and, under his successor James Polk, Congress passed a resolution accepting Texas as the 28th state.







## Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

### *Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico*

Skirmishes along the unclear border between Mexico and the USA sparked open conflict in 1846 when Mexican troops attacked American soldiers in the disputed zone. However, Mexico was soundly defeated in the resulting war - several provinces were occupied by the USA, and the army of Major General Winfield Scott even captured Mexico City. The resulting peace treaty saw Mexico accept Texas (which it had still claimed ownership of) as part of the United States, and it also ceded the Mexican provinces of Alta California and Nuevo Mexico to the US - land that subsequently became California and New Mexico. For the first time since westward expansion had begun, there was a clear border between the USA and Mexico.



1855

**Colt's Manufacturing Company is formed**  
*Hartford, Connecticut*

5 March 1851

**A Mexican raid kills Geronimo's wife and children, spurring him to retribution**

*Janos, Mexico*

24 January 1848

2 February 1848

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MERCHANTS' EXPRESS LINE OF CLIPPERS  
Loading none but First-Class Vessels and Regularly Dispatched  
THE SPLENDID NEW OUT-AND-OUT CLIPPER

May-July 1857

**Second Bonneville Expedition attacks Apache tribes**

*Arizona*

## California Gold Rush

### *Sutter's Mill, California*

Early on a winter morning, James Marshall noticed some shiny flecks in the water channel feeding a sawmill. He had discovered gold. News quickly filtered out and, over the next seven years, 300,000 prospectors - nicknamed forty-niners after the peak year of the gold rush - flocked to California hoping to make their own valuable discovery. Many travelled overland, diverting from the Oregon Trail at Fort Hall in Idaho, others sailed from the east coast on steamships. The population of California boomed and the land was quickly adopted as a state after it was ceded from Mexico, but most who sought a quick buck were disappointed as nearly all prospectors failed. Those who did best were the merchants who supplied the miners, but undoubtedly those who did worst were the Native Americans who were driven off the land claimed by Forty-niners - 100,000 were killed through violence or starvation in what has subsequently been named the Californian Genocide.



# CALIFORNIA

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## PONY EXPRESS!

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## LETTERS

WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE

### Pony Express

*St Joseph, Missouri*

The Pony Express may have had a short life, but during its 19 months of operation it helped to link the east and west coasts as never before. Messages and letters were carried by horse riders who set out from Missouri and raced from one station to the next, changing to a fresh horse at every stop, until they reached the final destination at Sacramento, California. It took about ten days to deliver a message from east to west, but even that was slow compared to the new technology that would soon render the Pony Express obsolete: the telegraph.

### EXPRESS CHARGES.

LETTERS weighing half ounce or under..... \$1 00  
For every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce 1 00  
In all cases to be enclosed in 10 cent Government Stamped Envelopes.

11 September 1857

3 April 1860

### Mountain Meadows Massacre

*Mountain Meadows, Utah*

The migrants who left Arkansas for California as part of the Baker-Fancher wagon train crossed Utah Territory in the middle of the Utah War, a year-long conflict between Mormons and non-Mormons. Suspicion of the settlers led the Mormons to attack the wagon train, disguising themselves as Native Americans to avoid reprisals. The settlers put up stern resistance until several members of the Mormon militia approached under a white flag. The settlers left the safety of their wagons and the Mormons turned on them, killing all over seven years of age. Around 130 men and women were murdered in the most infamous bout of paranoid hysteria that struck the west.

12 April 1861

### Bombardment of Fort Sumter begins the Civil War

*Fort Sumter, South Carolina*

December 1861-January 1862

### Great Flood causes widespread damage

*California, Oregon and Nevada*

1-3 July 1863

### Battle of Gettysburg

*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

26 July 1863

### Sam Houston, Founding Father of Texas, dies

*Huntsville, Texas*

17 August-26 December 1862

21 August 1863

24 October 1861

### Transcontinental telegraph line is completed

*Sacramento, California*

### Quantrill's Raid

*Lawrence, Kansas*

The west was as fractured by the Civil War as the east - Texas and Louisiana were among the states that seceded from the USA to form the Confederacy, while Oregon and California remained loyal to the Union. Although few setpiece battles took place in the west, mainly due to a lack of Confederate manpower, there were extensive guerrilla raids carried out by roving bands of unofficial soldiers. Among them were William Quantrill's Confederate raiders, who targeted the pro-abolition town of Lawrence for retribution. Around 450 guerrillas attacked the settlement, looting and killing any men they came across; 164 died, most of whom were civilians, several of whom had surrendered. Quantrill had a list of men he specifically sought out, including Senator James Lane who had led his own raids against Confederate targets, but Lane escaped through a cornfield.





## Hickok-Tutt shootout *Springfield, Missouri*

The Wild West was a lawless place, and it was often left for people to find their own justice. Several disagreements over unpaid gambling debts, a stolen watch and their mutual affection for the same women led Davis Tutt and James 'Wild Bill' Hickok to face off in Springfield town square on a hot summer morning in 1865. The two stood side-on to each other, drawing and firing their pistols at the same time - the first known quick-draw duel. Tutt's shot missed, but Hickok struck Tutt through the heart. Hickok was arrested and tried for murder but controversially acquitted after the jury found he acted in self-defence. The legend of Wild Bill was born.

21 July 1865

## Thirteenth Amendment *Washington, DC*

As long as the United States had existed it was split into states that outlawed slavery and states in which slavery was legal; the resulting tension within the country contributed to the outbreak of Civil War. At the end of the conflict, slavery was abolished throughout the nation by the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment. Areas in the west which had previously included slaves - Texas, New Mexico Territory and Utah Territory - now needed to manage the transition of hundreds of thousands of people from slavery to freedom. However, racial equality was still a long way off. Former slave states passed racist Black Codes which discriminated against freed blacks, and white supremacist organisations like the Ku Klux Klan used violence and intimidation in support of their twisted ideology.

13 February 1866

## Brothers Jesse and Frank James commit their first armed bank robbery *Liberty, Missouri*

4 March 1869

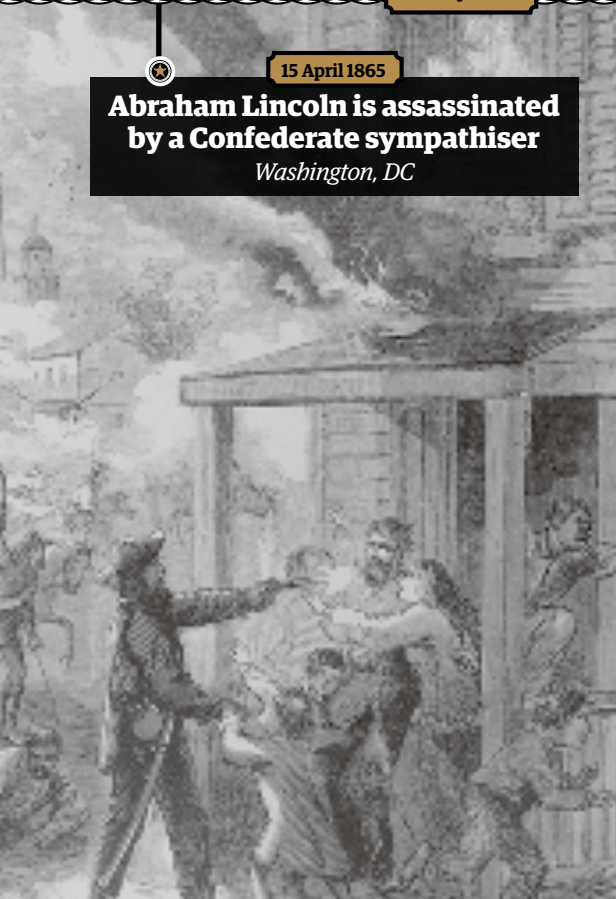
## Civil War hero Ulysses Grant becomes president *Washington, DC*

10 May 1869

18 December 1865

15 April 1865

## Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by a Confederate sympathiser *Washington, DC*



## Transcontinental Railroad *Promontory Summit, Utah Territory*

The ceremonial driving of a golden spike into the ground in Utah Territory officially opened the first Transcontinental Railroad to through traffic. Travel across the United States was now quicker and more comfortable, and migration to the west increased as the risks posed by the journey were reduced. However, the railroad cut across migration paths on the Great Plains and had a catastrophic effect on the buffalo population. Railroad companies initially employed buffalo hunters to help feed the labourers building the line, then whole herds were wiped out to prevent them blocking the line - some companies even offered buffalo hunting by rail, where hunters could shoot from the comfort of a train carriage.





## Powell Geographic Expedition

*Nevada*

In reaching the confluence of the Colorado and Virgin Rivers in Nevada, John Wesley Powell's small party of explorers completed the first passage by white men through the entirety of what they called Big Canyon. Despite losing one of their three boats and having four out of ten men leave the expedition - including three who walked away just two days from their final destination and were never seen again - the three-month mapping of the vast river valley was a great success. Powell returned for a second expedition two years later, this time giving his destination a new name: the Grand Canyon.



## Colt .45

*Hartford, Connecticut*

No self-respecting frontiersman would have left the house without his revolver, and more than any other the Colt .45 was the gun that won the west. The 'Peacemaker' became an instant favourite from its introduction in late 1873 due to its balance and ergonomic design and, by the end of the century, nearly 200,000 had been shipped to customers for \$17 by mail order. The six-shooter was the preferred sidearm of gunmen on both sides of the law, including Wyatt Earp and Jesse James, and was used in some of the most notorious shootouts, battles, duels and murders of the Wild West.

30 August 1869

1 March 1872

1873

## Yellowstone National Park

*Montana Territory and Wyoming Territory*

President Ulysses Grant put his signature to an act of dedication in 1872 which made Yellowstone the first national park in the USA, and probably the world. Grant had been convinced by a number of vocal explorers and scientists, the most enthusiastic of whom was Ferdinand Hayden, that the headwaters of the Yellowstone River contained ecological treasures that should be protected by federal law. However, the creation of "a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" was not a universally popular measure - many locals feared that preventing Yellowstone being sold or settled would restrict the local economy. Even after the foundation of the national park, the region remained largely unexplored until a number of expeditions over the next two decades gradually revealed the wonders of Yellowstone to the American people. The chance to see the Old Faithful geyser and grizzly bears now draws 3.5 million visitors to Yellowstone every year.

December 1872

**Buffalo Bill appears on stage for the first time**

*Chicago, Illinois*



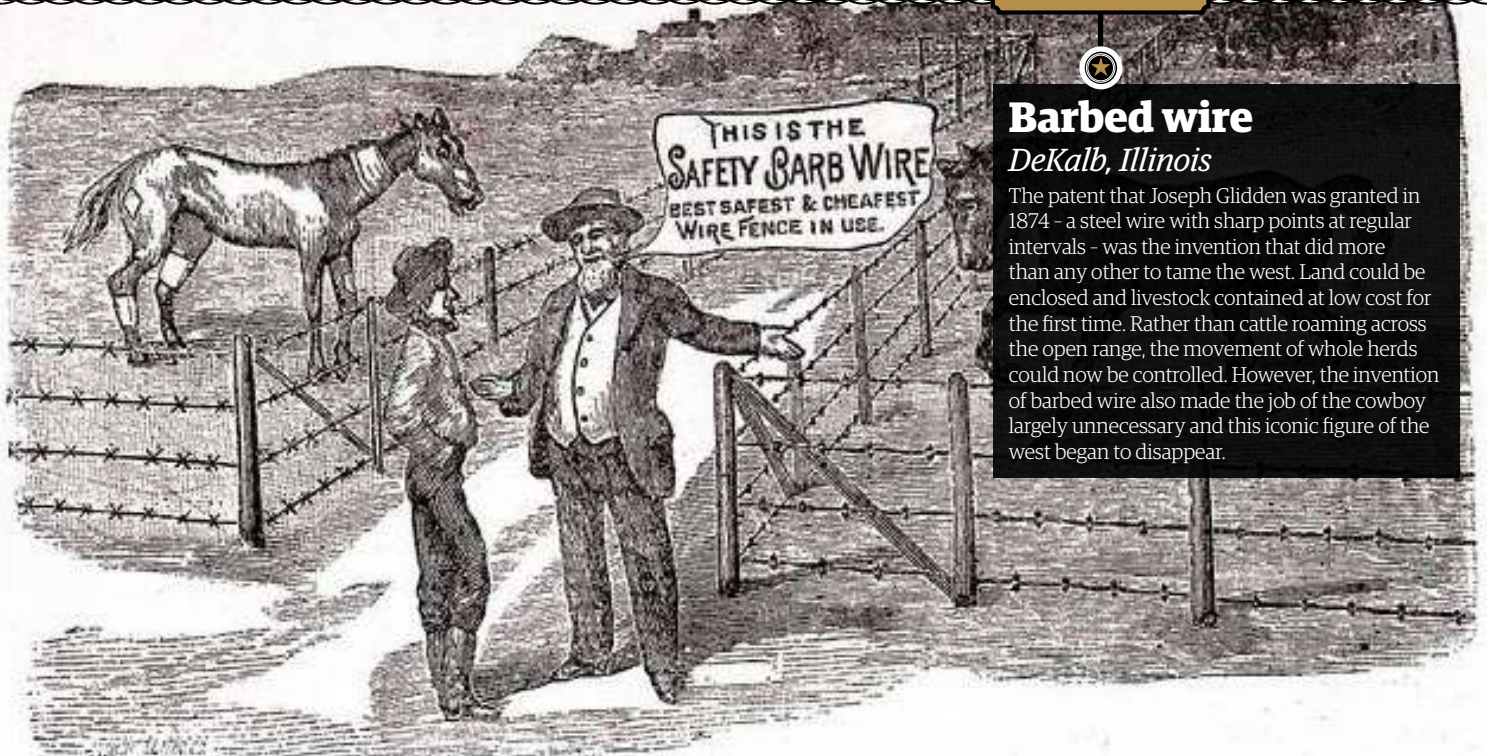


2 August 1876

**Wild Bill Hickok is shot and killed while playing cards**

*Deadwood, Dakota Territory*

24 November 1874



## Barbed wire

*DeKalb, Illinois*

The patent that Joseph Glidden was granted in 1874 - a steel wire with sharp points at regular intervals - was the invention that did more than any other to tame the west. Land could be enclosed and livestock contained at low cost for the first time. Rather than cattle roaming across the open range, the movement of whole herds could now be controlled. However, the invention of barbed wire also made the job of the cowboy largely unnecessary and this iconic figure of the west began to disappear.

**Protect your Stock by using SAFETY BARB WIRE.**

We Base our claim of Superiority on the Safety to Stock, Superior Quality of Material used, and care used in making.





## Battle of the Little Bighorn

*Little Bighorn River, Montana Territory*

During a Sun Dance ceremony at Rosebud Creek, Lakotan leader Sitting Bull had a vision of "soldiers falling into his camp like grasshoppers from the sky". Later that month, his vision came true. The US Army was planning to force the Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho back to their reservations and away from the Black Hills, where prospectors had discovered gold. George Armstrong Custer, a Civil War veteran who commanded the 7th Cavalry, spotted the Native American encampment and decided to attack immediately - a big mistake. Stern defence drove the cavalry back and Custer was surrounded, retreating to a hill with around 210 men. Not one of them survived the next wave of Lakota and Cheyenne warriors. However, although Little Bighorn is famous as the site of Custer's last stand, it was also the location of the Native Americans' last stand. The tribes scattered as US reinforcements arrived; Sitting Bull escaped to Canada, many others returned to the reservations and the Black Hills were forcibly ceded to the US.

5 September 1877

**Crazy Horse, a Lakota veteran of Little Bighorn, is fatally stabbed while under military guard**

*Fort Robinson, Nebraska*

25-26 June 1876

26 October 1881

28 April 1881

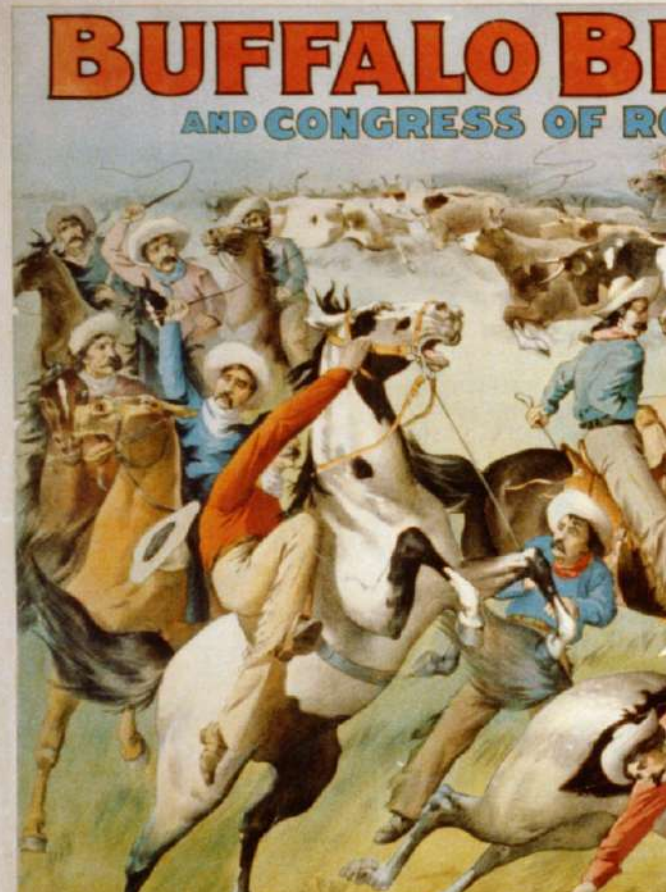
**Billy the Kid escapes from prison, where he is awaiting execution**

*Lincoln County, New Mexico Territory*

## Gunfight at the OK Corral

*Tombstone, Arizona Territory*

Tombstone was typical of many frontier towns - it grew rapidly after the discovery of silver in the local area and law enforcement struggled to cope with the bandits and criminals who flocked to the town. A feud developed between town Marshal Virgil Earp and a gang of cattle and horse smugglers known as the Cowboys, with repeated threats made by both sides. Things came to a head when Earp, with his brothers Morgan and Wyatt and temporary policeman Doc Holliday, attempted to disarm five Cowboys in a narrow street close to the rear entrance of the OK Corral. A gunfight followed during which 30 shots were fired in 30 seconds, killing three Cowboys and wounding Virgil, Morgan and Doc Holliday. The gunfight was largely forgotten until it was resurrected as the subject of a Hollywood blockbuster, and has now come to symbolise the brutality and danger of frontier justice.



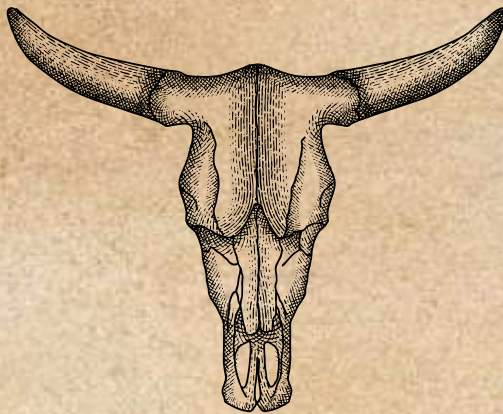
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# DISCOVERING THE AMERICAN WEST

They ventured across the country through unknown terrain,  
 facing danger and discovery at every turn. This is the journey  
 of Lewis and Clark

**W**hen the Revolutionary war ended in 1783, the founding fathers had grand ideals of what the vast continent had to offer, but little notion of its sprawling landscape and what lived there. It was an incredible wilderness full of possibilities and dangers, from which Meriwether Lewis and William Clark had no guarantee of a safe return.

The shape of the young American nation would change drastically when Napoleon Bonaparte offered to sell the French territory of Louisiana, a colossal area of 2,144,500 square kilometres that would double the size of the USA. President Thomas Jefferson worked quickly to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase for \$15 million in 1803, and he knew exactly what he wanted from it. He was desperate to know if there was a Northwest Passage that would connect the Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean, thus greatly increasing trading possibilities, and he had secretly asked Congress to approve and fund the expedition six months before the purchase was officially announced.

The President already had the perfect leader for the expedition. Jefferson's secretary, Meriwether Lewis, was a military veteran in excellent physical shape with a keen interest in the study of wildlife, and his loyalty and dedication were unquestionable. Lewis immediately began to prepare, taking lessons in navigation and absorbing every piece of available information about the geography and people of the region. However, even with all his study, he knew there would be myriad surprises ahead.

Lewis invited his former commanding officer, William Clark, to join him as co-captain, a move that partly stemmed from the diplomatic aspect of the voyage. They would be the ones to convey to the many tribes on their way westward that they would answer to the US government - a difficult conversation they hoped would be smoothed over with gifts, including a specially minted coin and some demonstrations of superior firepower. Clark's experience as a soldier and frontiersman combined with Lewis's strong leadership and diplomacy made them the perfect match, and Clark readily agreed.







Lewis sailed the newly constructed narrowboat from Pittsburgh down the Ohio River, and he met with Clark near Louisville, Kentucky, before setting up their winter training camp on Wood River. There would be 33 core members of the Corps of Discovery, which would finally set out on 14 May 1804 on the Missouri River.

The voyage did not get off to the best start. Discipline was occasionally poor, and on 17 May, three men were court-martialled for being absent without leave. Meanwhile, Lewis was given a warning from mother nature on 23 May, when he fell six metres from a cliff before managing to stop his fall with his knife, just barely saving his own life. There was no margin for error, and the brooding, solitary Lewis was reminded that wandering alone was a dangerous habit. Of course, that would not stop him.

The weather was fine, but it was hard going, with the fierce Missouri River frequently needing to be cleared to allow the boats free passage, and mosquitoes, ticks and illness proving to be a growing problem. It was during this summer that the expedition suffered its only fatality, when Sergeant Charles Floyd died of suspected appendicitis. However, Lewis's journeys into the woods provided them with an abundance of new discoveries.

A meeting with the Oto and Missouri Native Americans on 3 August went very well, with speeches and exchanges of gifts getting the reception that Lewis and Clark had hoped for.

Another successful meeting was held on 30 August, this time with the Yankton Sioux, and the Corps of Discovery entered the Great Plains in early September. It was here that the natural history aspect of the mission really began, as never-before-seen animals roamed. Beasts that seem archetypally American today (elk, bison, coyotes and antelope, for example) were a new discovery by these awe-struck men from the east.

But the animals weren't the only ones who called this land home, and the expedition was about to be reminded that, to some, they were trespassing.

Although every encounter with Native American tribes had been peaceful up to this point, tensions quickly ran high when they met the Teton Sioux (now known as the Lakota Sioux) near what is now South Dakota, in September. The travellers had been warned that this tribe could be unfriendly to unfamiliar faces, and it seemed that conflict was inevitable following a series of difficult meetings and demands for one of expedition's boats. Crisis was averted thanks to the intervention of the Sioux chief, Black Buffalo, although Clark's diaries show that all was not forgiven, referring to them as, "vile miscreants of the savage race".

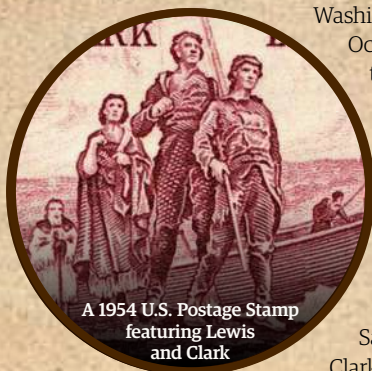
They travelled on northwards, reaching the Mandan settlements (a heavily populated area with more people calling it home than

Washington DC at the time) at the end of October. Quickly, they began work on their winter camp, Fort Mandan, as the cold weather bit harder than the men had ever experienced.

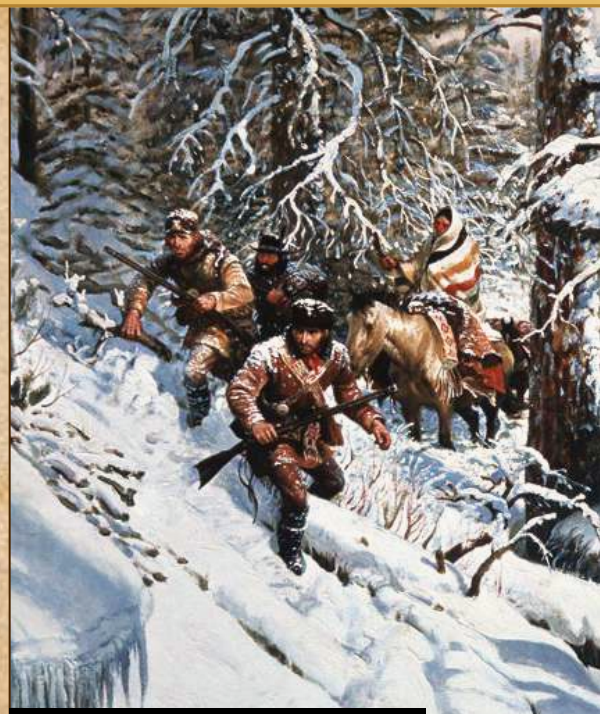
It was here that they made one of the most important decisions of their voyage. They hired the French-Canadian Toussaint Charbonneau, a fur trader, and his 16-year-old Shoshone wife Sacagawea as interpreters. Lewis and

Clark were heading to the mountains, and although they had no idea quite how colossal the range was, they knew they would need horses. Native speakers would be invaluable for trade as well as safe passage. Sacagawea gave birth to her son, Jean Baptiste (nicknamed Pomp by Clark), during the winter, and many credit this Native American woman and her child accompanying the travellers with being the reason they were treated so hospitably by tribes they met on the rest of the journey.

Having sent a small group back to St Louis with samples of their findings, the Corps of Discovery set out again on 7 April. They made excellent time through unexplored country, and it became



A 1954 U.S. Postage Stamp featuring Lewis and Clark

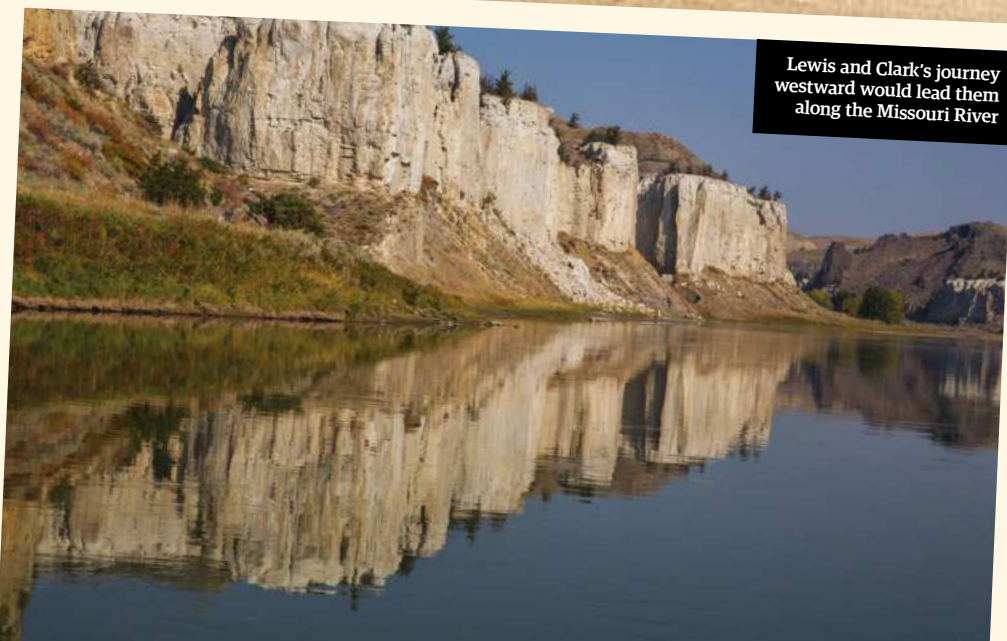


Lewis, Clark and their guide, Sacagawea, in the Bitterroot Mountains (present-day Idaho)

clear that bringing Sacagawea was a wise decision indeed. Not only did she help them to forage, showing them what was edible and what wasn't, she also had the presence of mind to rescue important papers when a boat capsized. Then, at the start of June, everything nearly fell apart. They had reached a fork in the Missouri River, and Lewis and Clark had to make a choice. If they chose poorly, they would be taken completely off course, and it was an incredible relief when they reached the waterfalls they had been told they would find if they were on the right track. However, the right track was not an easy path to take, and the Great Falls were another colossal challenge. There was a constant threat from bears and rattlesnakes, and several crewmembers were ill.

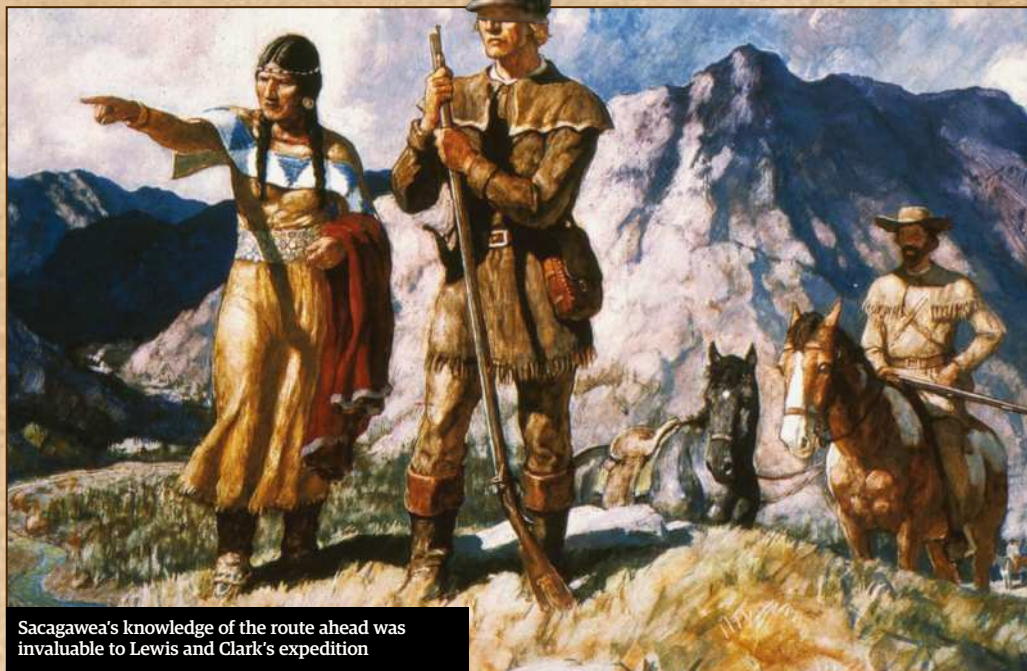
They would have to go the long way around, 29 kilometres over difficult terrain, carrying everything that they needed. There was no way back. Incredibly, the crew pulled together and accomplished this amazing feat. It's a testament to the spirit of these explorers, their awareness of the importance of their mission and the leadership of Lewis and Clark that the only thing lost on this brutal detour was time, and the dream of Lewis's iron-framed boat, which simply did not work.

Time, of course, was of the essence. Despite making the right choice at a second set of forks, winter was coming and there were still mountains to climb. They needed to reach the Shoshone tribe and trade for horses if they were to have any hope of reaching their goal, and as they grew closer, Sacagawea helped to navigate through the territory of her youth. However, finding the tribe proved to be difficult, and Lewis and a scout broke off from the group while Clark continued with the rest of the party up the river. Another crushing blow was delivered when Lewis saw the full extent of the mountains they would have to



Lewis and Clark's journey westward would lead them along the Missouri River





Sacagawea's knowledge of the route ahead was invaluable to Lewis and Clark's expedition

"They had reached a fork in the Missouri River, and Lewis and Clark had to make a choice. If they chose poorly, they would be taken completely off course"

cross. There was no Northwest Passage through the Rocky Mountains.

Finally, they found the Shoshone, who had never seen anyone like these strangers before. Sacagawea acted as an interpreter, and, while speaking, realised that the tribe's chief, Cameahwait, was her brother. This amazing stroke of luck secured the horses needed for their mountain crossing, after two weeks resting at the Shoshone camp.

In September, they began their mountain crossing at the Bitterroot Range with a Shoshone guide named Old Toby. The weather was against them, Toby lost his way for a while, and the group faced the very real possibility of starvation over two agonising weeks. They finally found their way to the settlement of the Nez Perce on 23 September, who decided to spare the lives of these wretched, starving travellers. In fact, they were incredibly hospitable, sheltering them for two weeks and even teaching them a new way to build canoes. Their first downstream journey may have seemed like a blessed relief, but the rapids were fantastically dangerous, and they were watched with great interest as they made their way down the perilous waters. Once again, they overcame the odds.

On 7 November, Clark was convinced that he could see the Pacific, writing, "Ocean in view! O! The Joy... This great Pacific Ocean which we have been so long anxious to see. And the roaring or

noise made by the waves breaking on the rocky shores (as I suppose) may be heard distinctly." He was sadly mistaken. They were 32 kilometres away, and it would take more than a week in bad weather to reach Cape Disappointment on 18 November. Clark wrote that the, "...men appear much satisfied with their trip, beholding with astonishment the high waves dashing against the rocks and this immense ocean." They had reached the Pacific; their mission was accomplished. Lewis and Clark decided to take a vote on where to build their winter camp, which is believed to be the first time in recorded US history that a slave (York) and a woman (Sacagawea) were allowed to vote. The winter was tough, as endless rain dampened their spirits, but in March they set out to return, using Clark's updated map. Their journey home may have been shorter (a mere six months), but had its own dangers, including a violent encounter with Blackfoot Indians that resulted in two killings. They finally arrived in St Louis on 23 September 1806, almost two and a half years after setting off.

The Corps of Discovery had gone where no white man had gone before. The discoveries they had made, from plant life to animals (grizzly bears, bison, bighorns, wolves and more) to the tribes they met, helped to bring a greater understanding of the nation to Washington, and they changed the shape of the burgeoning United States of America.

## Life after the voyage

What became of the intrepid pair once they returned

Lewis and Clark were hailed as national heroes, and President Thomas Jefferson was eager to show how pleased he was, giving both men political appointments. However, in the case of Lewis, these new honours did not help him to find any peace. He struggled with his duties as governor of Louisiana and frequently gave in to his dark moods and burgeoning alcoholism. It ended in tragedy when, on his way to Washington on 12 October 1809, Lewis shot himself.

Clark's life makes for much happier reading. He worked as an agent for Native American affairs and was married in 1808, before becoming the governor of the Missouri Territory for ten years. Despite his harsh words for the Lakota Sioux after their nearly violent encounter, Clark became renowned for his fair treatment of Native Americans (with some accusing him of being too sympathetic). He also cared for the child of Sacagawea after she and Toussaint left young Jean Baptiste (the baby Clark had called Pomp) in his care. He continued to raise Jean Baptiste after Sacagawea's death in 1812, and the young man would later travel to Europe and the German court.



Portraits of William Clark (left) and Meriwether Lewis (right) painted in c.1807



## ON THE TRAIL

Track the intrepid explorers' journey across Louisiana Territory

### 01. Camp Wood 14 May 1804

After taking the river down from Pittsburgh and meeting Clark at Louisville, this is where they begin preparing for the expedition. Supplies are gathered, men are trained, and the importance of the voyage is impressed upon everyone. Some disciplining of the men is required before they set out.

### 02. Lakota Sioux 25 September 1804

Although they have experienced several peaceful encounters with Native American tribes, the Corps of Discovery has a fraught encounter with the Lakota Sioux on the river near what is now Pierre, South Dakota. Without the interference of the tribe's chief, this could have been the end for everyone.

### 03. Fort Mandan

October 1804 - April 1805

The travellers arrive at the Mandan-Hidatsa settlement and make preparations for their winter camp, to be named Fort Mandan. Lewis and Clark arrange for many of their discoveries and journals to be sent back to St Louis, and Sacagawea joins the expedition and offers her knowledge of the land.

### 04. The unknown fork 1 June 1805

The expedition reaches another crucial decision when they find an unexpected fork in the Missouri. It's a gamble to choose the right direction, but they know that they have made the correct choice when they see the Great Falls.

### 05. Great Falls 13 June 1805

They had been told about a great waterfall, but having been confronted with the five cascades of the Great Falls, Lewis and Clark realise that going around over ground will be a long, arduous and backbreaking process. However, there is at least plenty of game to hunt.

### 06. Three Forks 22 July 1805

The Three Forks of the Missouri are uncharted when the expedition reaches this crucial point. It is near the end of July and they know that if they end up taking the wrong fork, crossing the mountains will become increasingly perilous.

### 07. Meeting the Shoshone 17 August 1805

Sacagawea is finally reunited with her people when the extensive search for the Shoshone is over. Lewis and Clark need her to negotiate for horses, and they have an unexpected stroke of luck when Sacagawea realises that the chief is her brother.

### 08. Bitterroot Mountains 11-23 September 1805

Accompanied by a Shoshone guide, the expedition sets out into the mountains. They are ill-prepared for such a long journey through the Rockies and face horrible weather conditions and the possibility of starvation.

### 09. Nez Perce 23 September - 7 October 1805

They finally find their way out of the mountains and straight into villages of the Nez Perce Indians. The locals take pity on the starving, bedraggled men, and help them to prepare for the final stage of their journey with new canoes.

### 10. Fort Clatsop 24 November 1805 - 23 March 1806

After one false alarm almost two weeks earlier, the Corps of Discovery finally arrives at the Pacific Ocean. They take a vote as to where to build their winter camp, and dream of home while Lewis works on a new and improved map.



- Preparation
- Recruitment
- Exploration and Homecoming
- Indian Reservation
- Louisiana Purchase Boundary
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

## NOTABLE DISCOVERIES

### Grizzly bear

The grizzly bears were far bigger than any they had seen before. It took more than ten shots to bring down a single bear when they faced one.



### Prairie dogs

Lewis and Clark found these creatures fascinating, particularly the way in which they lived in connected burrows (described as "towns").



### Bison

The explorers were not prepared for the experience of seeing Bison in the wild. Lewis wrote of a friendly calf that was only scared of his dog.







## Coyote

Described as "a prairie wolf", Lewis and Clark heard these creatures howling in the night. They were familiar to European traders, but unknown to the men.



## Silver sagebrush

First seen in October 1804, the sagebrush, now known as *Artemisia cana*, was described as an "aromatic herb", and it spread through great swathes of the West.



## Indian tobacco

As a tobacco grower, Lewis took particular interest in the two species he encountered on the trip, taking notes on how the Arikaras tribe grew and harvested their crops.



## Douglas firs

Towards the end of the voyage, the expedition saw a variety of fir trees, with Lewis doing his best to describe six in his journal, including the Douglas fir.





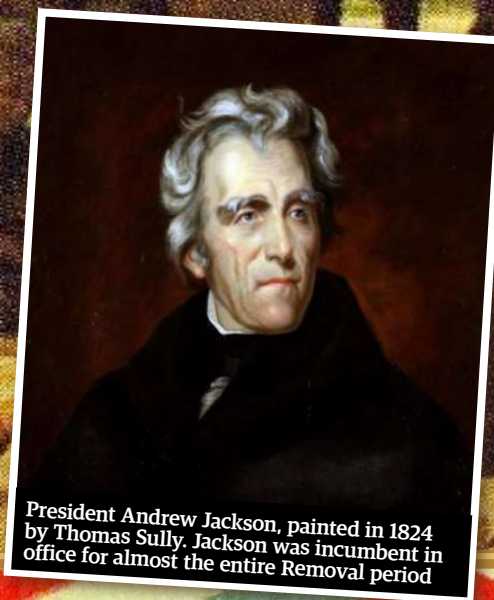
# THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT

President Andrew Jackson's controversial legislation removed tens of thousands of Native Americans from their own land. The exodus became known as the Trail of Tears

**B**y 1830, the number of white settlers desiring to move into Indian-occupied territory, and the clamour of their demands, prompted the US government to take drastic action in favour of its electorate. The 'solution' arrived at under the Presidency of Andrew Jackson was the Indian Removal Act, which would uproot the "Five Civilised Tribes" (Choctaw, Seminole, Muscogee/Creek, Chickasaw and Cherokee) from their lands in the Deep South of America and displace them hundreds of miles to new territories further west.

Prior to the act, the five tribes had been assured of their right to remain east of the Mississippi as long as they toed certain lines of European society, such as adopting Anglo-European cultural behaviours and practices and converting to Christianity. Jackson, however, called an end to this era in his State of the Union speech in 1829, arguing that nobody can stand in the way of "progress", and that relocation was the only way to prevent the Natives' inevitable annihilation. According to his proposal, Native Americans could only observe self-rule in federally designated reservations west of the Mississippi, and would be forcibly escorted to those lands.

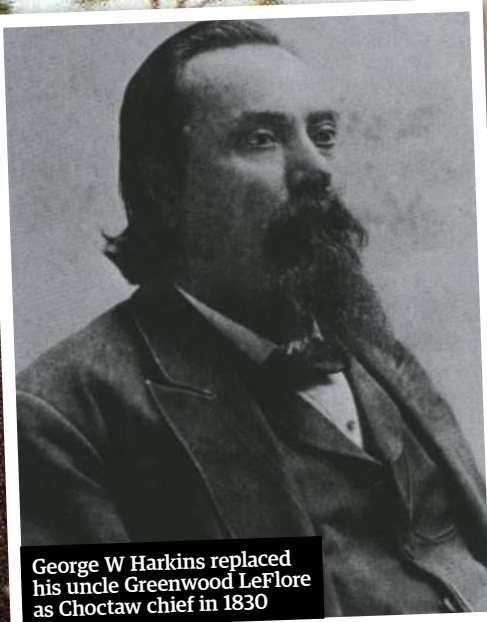
The act was passed in the senate on 28 May 1830, after much acrimonious debate; although in the end, only the maverick congressman Davy Crockett voted against it. Over the course of the subsequent 20 years, the Five Tribes were "escorted" on foot to their new destination in Oklahoma by local militia forces. Many resisted, leading to scrappy wars before the Native Americans could be subdued and marched on their way again. Disease was rife, environmental conditions were severe, and the Natives were subject to constant attacks en route, meaning that thousands died without seeing the end point of their arduous and unjust journey. The European Americans inherited 25 million acres of land, caring little about the appalling price.



President Andrew Jackson, painted in 1824 by Thomas Sully. Jackson was incumbent in office for almost the entire Removal period



# THE CHOCTAW



George W Harkins replaced his uncle Greenwood LeFlore as Choctaw chief in 1830

**T**he Choctaw were the earliest of the Five Civilised Tribes to be evicted from their lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, following the Indian Removal Act. Their relocation was managed in three stages between 1831 and 1833 - although some Choctaw refused to leave and their uprooting continued throughout the rest of the 19th century and into the 20th.

The Choctaw nation had come together in the 17th century from the remnants of other tribes that had occupied lands in the Deep South of America for many thousands of years. A lot of Choctaw had fought for George Washington's army during the American Revolutionary War, and in the politically fraught times that followed, the Choctaw generally sided with the nascent United States Government (or at least, never took up arms against it; they even fought with the US against the Creek Indians in 1813). This spirit of cooperation, however, didn't garner them any special treatment or privileges. Jackson visited them in 1820 as a commissioner representing the United States in a treaty negotiating the boundaries of Choctaw lands. He decided to resort to blackmail, bribery and threats to get his way.

The 1820 Treaty of Doak's Stand saw the Choctaw ceding half their land to the US Government, and agreeing to work towards US citizenship, which would only be granted once they were deemed

"civilised and enlightened". But a decade later with Jackson now in office, those remaining rights were lost, and the final 11 million acres of traditional Choctaw land exchanged for 15 million in what's now Oklahoma in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. It was the Choctaw's final significant land cession treaty, and the first under the Removal Act. Chief Greenwood LeFlore was almost immediately deposed by the Choctaw for signing the treaty, and succeeded by his nephew, George W Harkins.

Following the treaty, the Choctaw divided into two distinct groups: the Choctaw Nation who undertook the trek to Oklahoma, and the Choctaw Tribe, who stayed behind in Mississippi. Those 5,000 or so who held out were granted US citizenship, but endured legal conflict, harassment, intimidation and violence at the hands of the European Americans who wanted them gone (by 1930 only about 1,600 were still there). The 15,000 who left, meanwhile, had to contend with the brutal winter of 1830-31 and a cholera epidemic in 1832. About 6,000 Choctaw died on the journey.

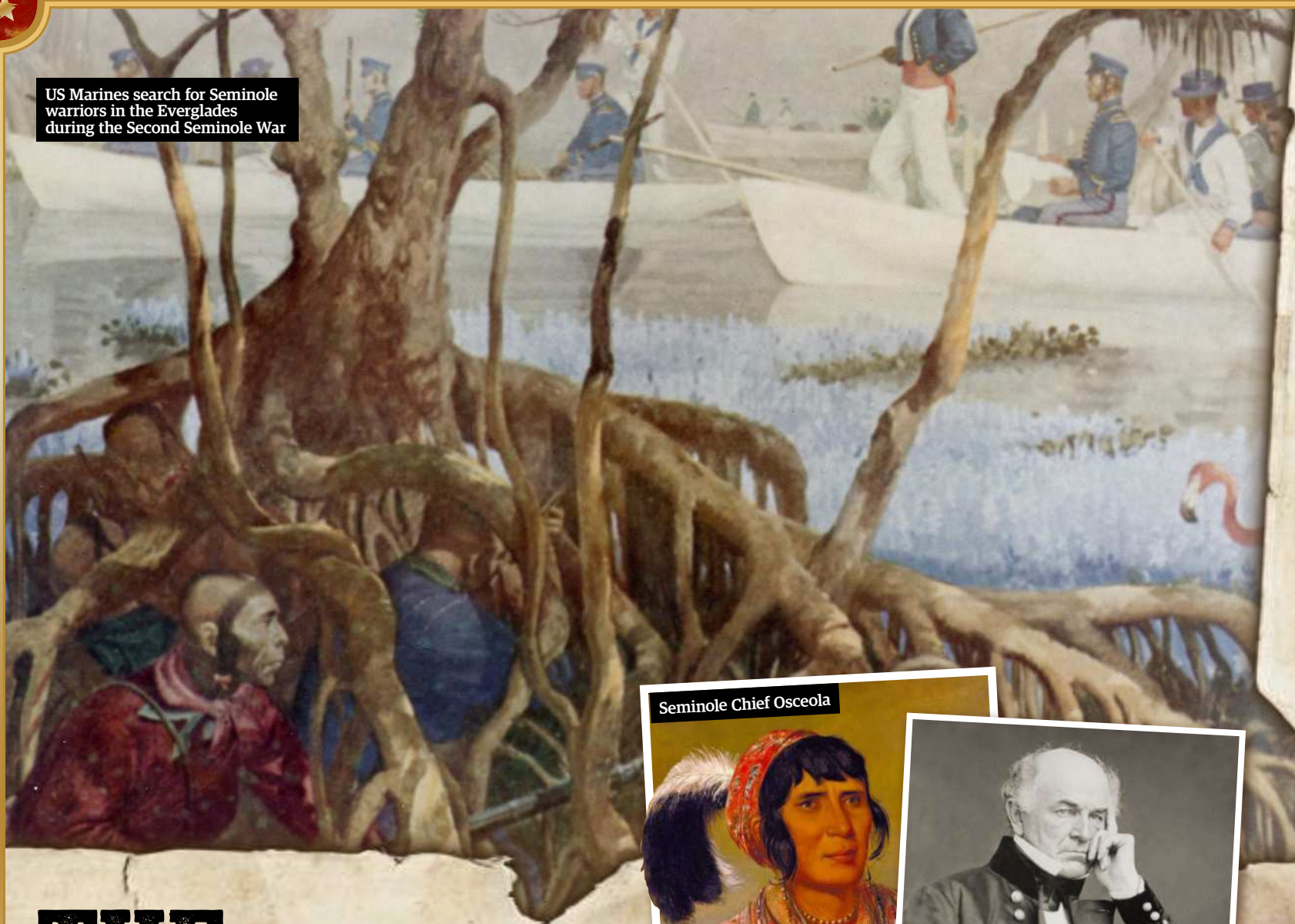
In the years that followed, most Choctaw supported the Confederacy during the American Civil War, largely due to the promise of a state under American Indian control. In World War I, the Choctaw were the first of the US Army's famous codetalkers (their language, as far as the enemy was concerned, an unbreakable code). Today they are the third largest of the remaining American tribes.



Two Choctaw tribes are descended from the relocated Choctaw bands: the Jena Band and the Mississippi Band



US Marines search for Seminole warriors in the Everglades during the Second Seminole War



## THE SEMINOLE

**T**he Seminole had settled in the Florida area in the early 18th century. As a people they were a culture made up of offshoots of the Creek, Choctaw and other tribes.

Their name is derived from the Spanish 'cimarrón', meaning 'wild' or even 'runaway'. Under the Indian Removal Act they were to be settled in Creek territory west of the Mississippi and be folded back into the Creek tribe. They put up fierce resistance to this, however, fearing that the Creek - who considered them deserters - would take it upon themselves to be aggressively unwelcoming to the Seminole people.

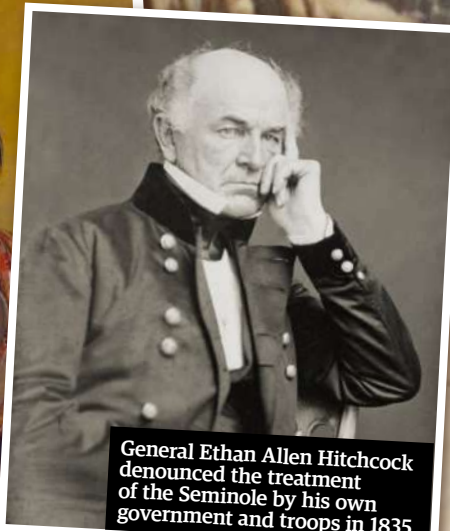
They had fought Andrew Jackson's initial incursions into Florida in a prolonged conflict between 1816 and 1819. However, the Removal Act sparked the Second Seminole War, which raged from 1835 until 1842.

The specific treaty detailing the proposed removal of the Seminole was the Treaty of Payne's Landing. The seven chiefs of the Seminole had travelled to the new Oklahoma reservation and reportedly

signed documents agreeing that it was acceptable. But on returning to Florida the chiefs retracted their apparent consent, saying they had been coerced and bullied into compliance. Even some US Army officers supported this claim. Nevertheless, the Treaty was ratified in April 1834, giving the Seminole three years to vacate the land. When the Seminole refused to recognise the treaty, Florida prepared for conflict.

The 28th of December 1835 saw the Dade Massacre, where 110 American soldiers under the command of Major Francis Dade were ambushed and killed by Seminole Warriors. US Major Ethan Allen Hitchcock, who found the bodies, wrote that it was a wholly avoidable tragedy brought about by "the tyranny of our government". Further skirmishes took place in the subsequent months at Fort Brooke, Fort Barnwell, Camp Cooper, Fort Alabama and Fort Drane, none of which resulted in the defeat of the Seminole: several of the forts even had to be abandoned by the American troops. It eventually

Seminole Chief Osceola



General Ethan Allen Hitchcock denounced the treatment of the Seminole by his own government and troops in 1835

took a force of 9,000 US marines, navy and militia, under the command of Major General Thomas Jesup, to subdue an Indian resistance that had never numbered more than 1,400 warriors. A truce was reached following the Battle of Hatchee-Lustee in January 1837. Hundreds of Seminole surrendered at this point, but those few who did not kept the conflict going until August 1842.

The last act of the war was the capture of Chief Tiger Tail (one of the Seminole leaders during the Dade Massacre) and the killing of his small band of holdouts. Tiger Tail died in New Orleans before he could be transported to Oklahoma. Most of the Seminole resigned themselves to removal, although a hundred or so remained in the Florida Everglades and were left alone on an ad-hoc reservation of their own. They remain the only tribe never to relinquish their sovereignty or sign a peace treaty with the US.



# THE CREEK

**I**ndigenous to the Southeastern Woodlands of the United States, the Creek had been the first Native Americans to be classed as "civilised": they were the first of the Five Civilised Tribes. That's perhaps surprising given their history of resistance and conflict with the US. They had seen their lands ceded to the US by the British following the American Revolution, and had fought alongside the Cherokee against the white settlers of Tennessee during the Cherokee-American Wars of the late 1700s.

The outbreak of the Creek War in 1813 was a series of conflicts between the Creek's Red Stick

faction and American militias. There were several Red Stick attacks on American forts, including a famous massacre at Fort Mims, Alabama in August. Creek men, women and children were slaughtered in retaliation for an atrocity at Tallushatchee in November of the same year. General Andrew Jackson finally put down the rebellion at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in March 1814. The Creek signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson in August, ceding 23 million acres of land in Georgia and Alabama to the US Government. The war effectively undid all the work of previous Creek generations who had attempted to coexist peacefully with the European-American settlers. The antipathy Jackson developed for the Creek during the conflict would be carried into his Presidency.

By the time of the Indian Removal Act, there were still about 20,000 Creek in Alabama. Their lands had been divided into individual allotments, and the terms of 1832's Treaty of Cusseta actually gave them

the choice of remaining in situ (and submitting to state laws) or relocating to Oklahoma with financial compensation for doing so. In practice, however, staying in place was never really an option. Illegal occupation of Creek lands by settlers was widespread, with US authorities largely turning a blind eye. The increasingly impoverished and desperate Creek resorted once again to attacking the interlopers, leading to the short-lived Second Creek War of 1836. It ended with the forced removal of the Creek by troops under the command of General Winfield Scott. In mid-1837 about 15,000 Creek were first rounded up into internment camps and then driven from their land for the final time. About a quarter of them died on the arduous journey west to Oklahoma.

Subsequently, the Creek were divided in their loyalties during the American Civil War, with some supporting the Confederacy and others siding with the Union. President Abraham Lincoln initially rewarded the loyalists with increased government aid, but the actions of the rebels meant a new treaty was required in 1866. Under its terms the Creek lost further territory, with part of the Creek reservation given over to recently emancipated slaves.



Members of the Creek Nation, photographed in 1877



Chief Red Eagle surrenders to Andrew Jackson following the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814



# THE CHICKASAW

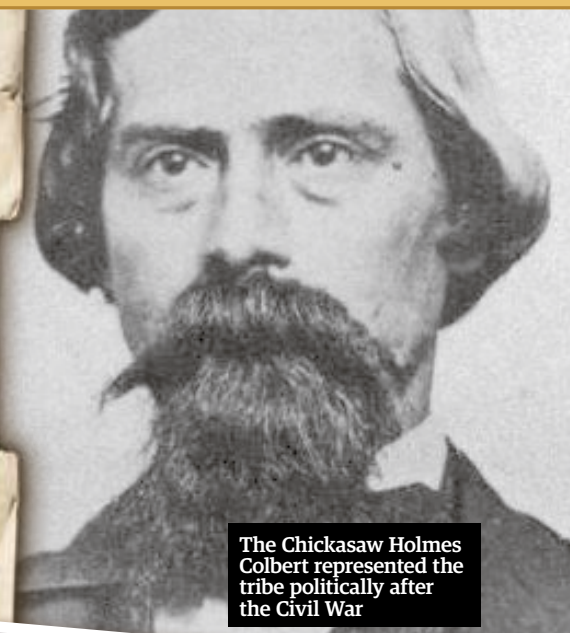
**T**he Chickasaw are closely related to the Choctaw. Their oral history recalls their settling in Mississippi in prehistoric times, and the two peoples separated into distinct tribes sometime in the 17th century. Their first contact with Europeans was when the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto encountered them in 1540. After several disagreements, they attacked his entourage and he swiftly moved on. They allied with the British in 1670 (a period that often brought them into conflict with the Choctaw), and with the newly formed United States in the Revolutionary War. Subsequently they tended always to side with the US and its government, even as their rights and lands were eroded.

The treaty securing their removal west was that of Pontotoc Creek in 1832. A previous attempt had failed in 1830, when the Chickasaw had baulked at the poor quality of the land they were being offered in Oklahoma. But two years later, with the encroachment of the European-American settlers onto their valuable Mississippi territories, and an epidemic of whiskey addiction, they began to feel their culture was being overwhelmed and on the point of being wiped out. An indication of their desperation at this point is that they ended up ceding their Mississippi lands to the government on merely the promise of new land being found for them. Uniquely among the Five Civilised Tribes, they were also persuaded to pay for their own

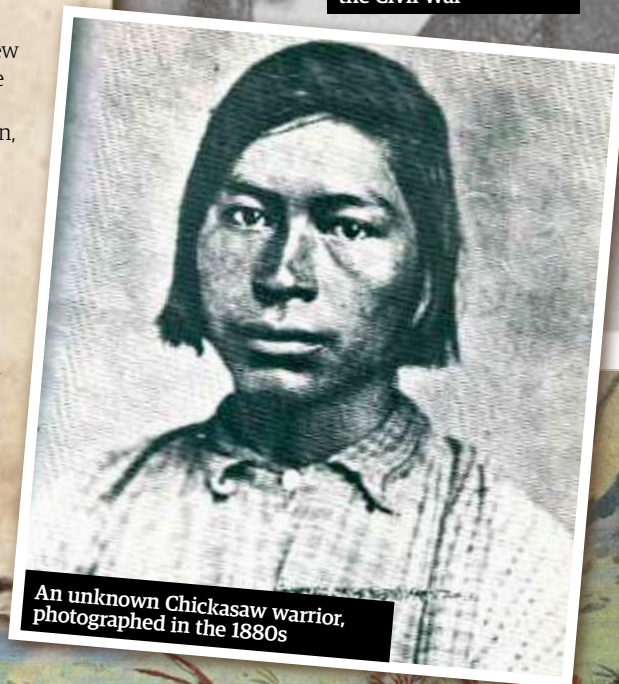
migration. They used the financial compensation they received for their Mississippi lands to buy a part of the Choctaw tribe's new Oklahoma territory. The American Senate ratified the agreement between the Chickasaw and the Choctaw in the 1837 Treaty of Doaksville - unusual for an internal matter between Native Americans.

The Chickasaw's migration west began in 1837 and continued into the following year. Just under 5,000 Chickasaw made the journey, which was accomplished relatively successfully compared to the trails of tears the other four tribes endured. Instead, their privations began on arrival, when most Chickasaw, rather than gaining their own new district on former Choctaw land as arranged, were interned in temporary camps in Choctaw towns and government supply depots. Poverty, addiction, internal political disputes and attacks from other tribes were rife, and it would be another 15 years before they were finally settled in a dedicated Chickasaw territory.

The Chickasaw formally separated from the Choctaw, emerging as a new Chickasaw Nation in 1856. In the Civil War they joined the Confederacy. By 1907, following the defeat of the Five Tribes' petition for statehood, the Chickasaw were a powerless minority in their own lands. The 20th century saw a revival in their fortunes, however. They were officially recognised as a Nation again in 1983.



The Chickasaw Holmes Colbert represented the tribe politically after the Civil War

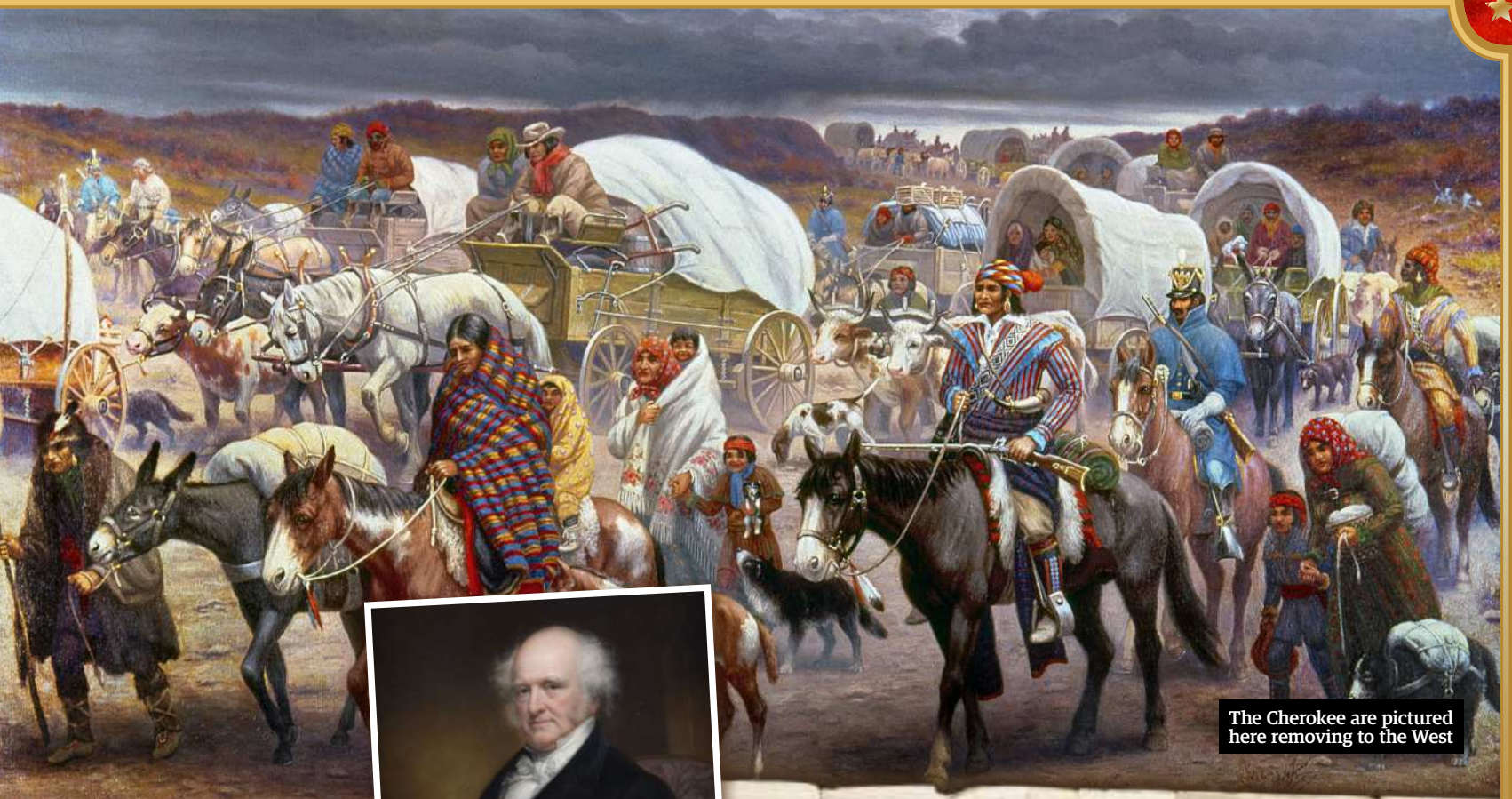


An unknown Chickasaw warrior, photographed in the 1880s

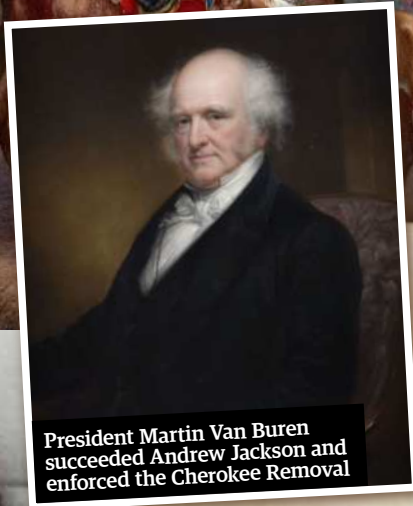


A rising of the Chickasaw people, angry at mistreatment, is suppressed by the United States Cavalry





The Cherokee are pictured here removing to the West



President Martin Van Buren succeeded Andrew Jackson and enforced the Cherokee Removal

## THE CHEROKEE

**I**ncursion on Indian land by European-American settlers had always been due to its particular desirability, whether for perfect farming conditions, mineral deposits, or both. In the case of the Cherokee's land in Georgia, however, there was a very specific reason: gold. The Georgia Gold Rush, in which thousands of prospectors descended on Cherokee land in search of their fortune, began in 1829, preceding the more famous California Gold Rush by 20 years. The Cherokee, who had inhabited the land since prehistoric times, were quickly overwhelmed. The State of Georgia, far from supporting its indigenous people, was desperate to get them out of the way.

Even by the previous standards of the Indian Removal Act, the treaty that uprooted the Cherokee was dubious in its morality and legality. The Treaty of New Echota was accepted neither by the tribal leaders nor the majority of the Cherokee people, but was nevertheless enforced in 1838 by Andrew Jackson's successor, Martin Van Buren. Sadly, a new President didn't mean a change in Native American fortunes. Having refused to recognise the terms of the deal, the Cherokee were first herded into internment camps for several months, before being forcibly marched from their lands by militia troops. Twelve wagon trains, each comprising about a thousand Cherokee, began the arduous trek in the winter of 1838. Their various routes encompassed trails through Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee,

Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri. Most of the Cherokee travelled barefoot.

Malnutrition, disease, pneumonia and exposure were rife on the journey. The summer in the camps had been one of blistering heat and severe drought, and the winter of that year was freakishly cold, making progress brutally slow (the 96 kilometres between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers alone took three months). The risk of the Cherokee bringing sickness to populations meant their journey was made even longer than it might have been, since they were forbidden from passing through towns or settlements and had to go around them. When they reached the Ohio river they were charged a dollar a head by the ferryman who usually only charged 12 cents. On the long wait to cross the river, many Cherokee died from exhaustion and starvation. Some were even murdered by locals.

The Cherokee finally reached their destination in Oklahoma in the early months of 1839. Between the internment camps and the journey itself, the estimated death toll was between 4,000 and 6,000.

Today, the Cherokee are the largest Native American group in the US, but the shameful ethnic cleansing of them and the other Civilised Tribes has not been forgotten. The 3,540-kilometre Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was opened in commemoration in 1987. The Five Tribes finally received a formal apology from the US Government in 2008.



Elizabeth Brown Stephens was one of thousands of Cherokee on the Trail of Tears. This photograph was taken in 1903 when she was 82





# RIDING THE OREGON TRAIL

Journalist and politician Horace Greeley famously stated  
 "Go West, young man." He had no idea just how arduous  
 and dangerous a trip he was suggesting

**T**he Oregon Trail is another hallmark of the Old West. Between the mid 1830s and the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, some 400,000 people used it, vastly accelerating the expansion of the western frontier. Starting as a motley collection of dirt tracks passable only on foot or horseback, it grew into a spider's web of wagon trails, way stations, forts and towns linking numerous Midwestern states.

Starting out in Missouri, at its peak the trail linked Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Oregon itself with California, where it linked up with the California Trail among others. Some of today's major roads in the United States still follow parts of the Oregon Trail.

Originally, the trail was the domain of trappers and hunters. At its peak, however, it was used by explorers, ranchers, hunters, trappers, pioneers, missionaries and businessmen, all hoping to

start new lives and perhaps make their fortunes. Whatever it was they were looking for, many would find death and tragedy instead.

Some reached their destinations safely and even prospered. Others arrived, but achieved little other than surviving the trip, while some simply gave up on their original destinations, settling down along the way rather than continue. For the rest, only death awaited them. Hostile natives, disease, starvation, outlaws and accidents left graves marking the Oregon Trail like milestones.

The 'Great Migration of 1843' was a particular high point, with some 1,000 people departing aboard a huge wagon train. After reaching Fort Hall, Idaho they were told by their guide that, from then on, the trail was impassable to wagons and they should use pack animals instead. Their leader, Marcus Whitman, disagreed. He and many of the pioneers believed that a wagon trail could be made, if necessary by clearing

forest and levelling a track as they went. Whitman and his followers were ultimately proved right.

They managed to cut a route through Oregon's heavily forested Blue Mountains before meeting the then-impassable obstacle of Mount Hood. Bypassing the mountain, sending the wagons down the Columbia River and the animals via the Lolo Pass, almost all of the travellers successfully arrived in the Willamette Valley in October 1843. The Oregon Trail had been created.

One of the largest groups to use it was the Mormons. They came in their thousands to live together as a homogeneous group. Early Mormon settlers were responsible for finding suitable places to settle, building farms and homes to accommodate their brethren as they arrived. Mormons came from all over the country, their then-leader Brigham Young choosing the Salt Lake Valley in Utah as their main base. Some Mormons, however, settled in other





Alfred Bierstadt painted hundreds of scenes of 19th century America, including *The Oregon Trail*, *Emigrants crossing the Plain*

Fort Laramie was an important staging post for pioneers along the trail. This memorial commemorates those who died on the trail

Sited in The Dalles, Oregon, this marks the official end of the Oregon Trail. Other trails continued further into California

The eastern section of the Oregon Trail linked to the California, Mormon and Bozeman Trails, all major routes.

One of the busiest departure points for the Oregon Trail was St Joseph, Missouri, home of the Pony Express.

Lacking their own supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables, travellers ate trailside fruits and berries in order to ward off scurvy.

The trails were commonly used for mass cattle drives, ranchers moving livestock wherever the best prices were found.

places. One of them, store owner and newspaper publisher Samuel Brannan, settled in California and was to cause a massive rise in traffic via the trail. It was Brannan's newspaper, the *California Star*, that publicised a momentous discovery - gold.

The 1848 California Gold Rush was another major reason for travellers to hit the trail. With such huge amounts seemingly there for the taking, people travelled from all over the world seeking their fortunes. Those arriving from Europe and wanting to avoid a risky boat journey round Cape Horn or via Panama used the trail. With endless wild stories of gold so plentiful it could simply be picked up from riverbeds and streams, many thousands headed for California. 'Gold fever' proved even more contagious than cholera.

In 1849, however, cholera also struck the US. Thousands died on the trail west, especially along the Platte River between 1849 and 1855 during the

'epidemic years.' With little understanding of how cholera spread or how to treat it, parts of the trail were natural breeding grounds. Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming were the last resting places for many who sought fame and fortune, with their unmarked graves left lining the trail.

The most basic essentials for trail travellers were food, water and transport. Transport involved horses, pack mules, oxen and wagons, and each had their own particular difficulties. Mules weren't the most co-operative of creatures, especially carrying loads of over 45 kilograms up steep hills and through mountainous country. Horses and oxen had to be shod. Wagons needed to be repaired on the road, requiring spare parts and tools for the job.

Water had to be found along the way, which was not always possible or safe. Finding rivers, ponds and streams was sometimes difficult. Sourcing water that was safe for drinking and cooking was even harder.

With little knowledge of waterborne diseases and large numbers of people living with poor sanitation, cholera was a constant threat.

Food was basic. Meat could be bought before departure and hunted along the trail, where it could be found. Hardtack biscuits, salted pork and bacon, beans, dried fruit, pickles, bread and rice were staple supplies. To make meals less monotonous, sugar, tea, coffee, dried vegetables and small amounts of spices and maple syrup supplemented travellers' diets. If a wagon train got lost or scattered by, say, a raid, entire wagon trains could starve out on the plains. For this reason, experienced guides were well worth their exorbitant fees.

The right clothes and equipment were absolutely vital to survival, too. Warm clothing for cold





weather, several pairs of boots (as two or even three pairs would wear out on the trail), guns for hunting and protection, tents and bedding, candles and lanterns, books, paper and pens for keeping diaries and records of the journey, spare leather and tools for running repairs of saddles, bridles and boots, soap for washing and so on. Tobacco was a popular item for smoking and for trading with friendly Natives and other travellers. Basic cooking equipment was also essential. As the amount of necessary supplies increased, so did the number of wagons and mules needed to haul them.

Travellers often discarded equipment if it couldn't be repaired or they lacked the means to transport it. If a wagon was irreparably damaged, essential supplies were taken off and redistributed among other wagons and pack animals. If there was no space left, then supplies were simply dumped by the roadside. Many travellers foraged among the abandoned wagons and supplies of their predecessors, carrying off

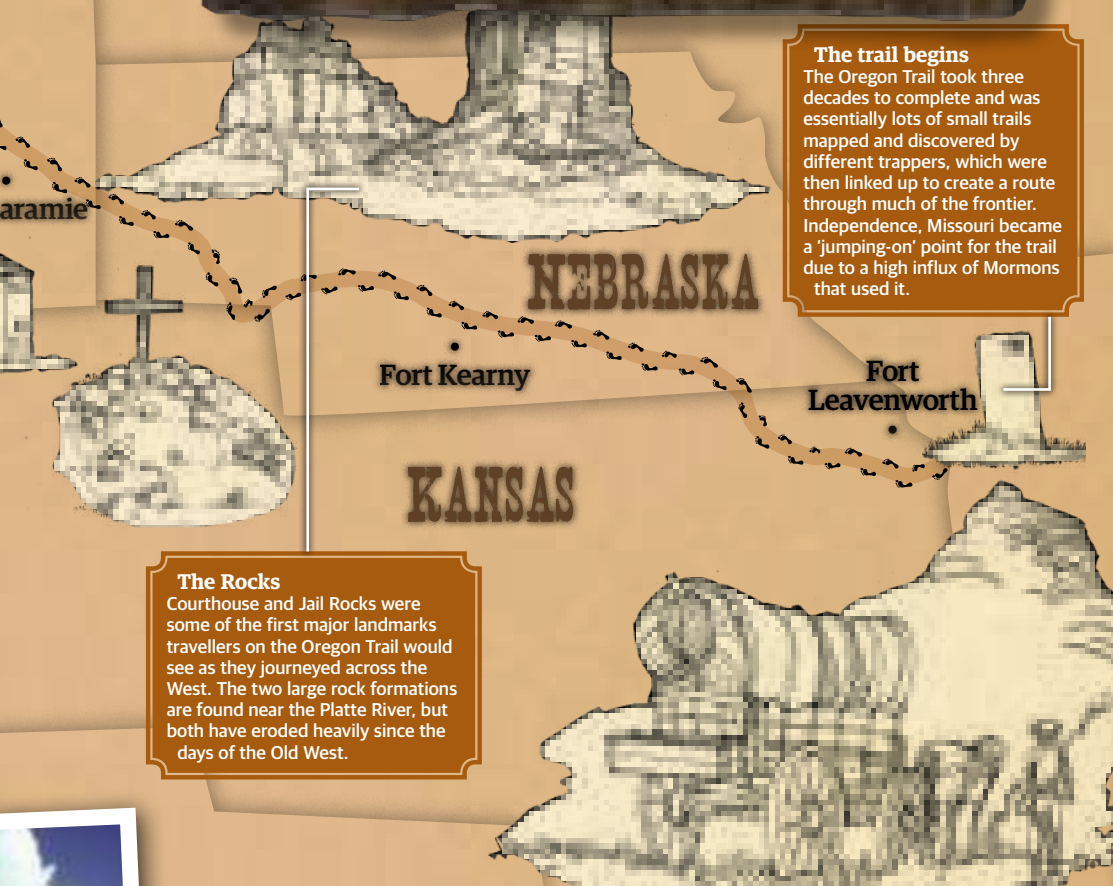






## The trail begins

The Oregon Trail took three decades to complete and was essentially lots of small trails mapped and discovered by different trappers, which were then linked up to create a route through much of the frontier. Independence, Missouri became a 'jumping-on' point for the trail due to a high influx of Mormons that used it.



## The Rocks

Courthouse and Jail Rocks were some of the first major landmarks travellers on the Oregon Trail would see as they journeyed across the West. The two large rock formations are found near the Platte River, but both have eroded heavily since the days of the Old West.

whatever they found useful. 'Waste not, want not' and 'finders keepers' became rules of the long road west.

One factor helped or hindered travellers more than any other - money. Stores, wagons, animals, weapons, supplies and guides all had to be paid for unless they could be bartered. As demand increased, so did prices. Groups of travellers often pooled their money to pay for everything, keeping the rest in a strongbox for security. It didn't always work. Raiding parties might make off with a wagon train's entire stake. Outlaws might also attempt to rob a wagon train, law enforcement being limited in most places and practically nonexistent in others.

Like the Pony Express mail service, the decline of the Oregon Trail was marked by the encroaching Transcontinental

Railroad. Riding the trail was arduous, dangerous and costly. Travelling from the East Coast to the West by rail was cheaper, safer, faster and less uncomfortable. A journey taking eight months via the trail could take eight days via train, usually without catching cholera, being robbed by outlaws or even murdered.

With the railroad converging on Promontory Summit, Utah from both east and west, the days of the Oregon Trail were increasingly numbered. As the railroad advanced, towns and cities grew along its route, allowing travellers to stop and continue their journeys in relative safety if they chose to, further lessening the need for the old trails.

By the 1870s the Oregon Trail had had its day. Railroads and stagecoaches had replaced wagons and pack mules. Of approximately 400,000 people who travelled along it, as many as 21,000 died. But, obsolete though it was, it was the Oregon Trail that had opened the route west.

## Women of the frontier

Women and men seem to have had very different attitudes to and experience of expanding the western frontier. While men often viewed the journey as an adventure and were keener to risk it if they thought the rewards worth the risks, women were less keen. They often saw it as threatening a stable, ordered, more reliable way of life.

Many women kept diaries and journals describing the hardships of the trail and their sadness at losing so many along the way. They also often found their life on the trail far more demanding, physically and mentally, than they had expected.

That said, it did give women the chance to break traditional stereotypes. In an environment where everybody had to contribute something, women often found themselves in roles they hadn't previously experienced, something resembling equality. The social scene out west was also different. In the California goldfields, for instance, women could run their own businesses and often did.

The pioneer experience often changed men's view of women and women's view of themselves. It wasn't actual equality, far from it, but it was certainly a path not only to the west, but toward a freer, less restrictive existence.

Independence Rock, Wyoming was an important point on the trail west





# THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

America's 'manifest destiny' is something that is taught in schools across the globe, and it wasn't something that happened easily

**M**anifest destiny - the phrase and its sentiment would soon grow strong in the fledgling United States of America after shrugging off its colonial shackles. However, it wasn't enough for this newborn country to thrive on its hard-fought freedoms while still clutching to the east coast of the continent - its booming populations and pioneer spirit demanded more.

By the time James K Polk was sworn in as the 11th President, all eyes were already fixed on the west and the riches it could yield. "Our Union is a confederation of independent States, whose policy is peace with each other and all the world," he declared in his address. "To enlarge its limits is to extend the dominions of peace over additional territories and increasing millions. The world has nothing to fear from military ambition in our Government." However, just one year later in 1846, the US would be at war and American blood would be shed on foreign soil for the first time.

## Texas sparks a revolution

After fighting hard to break from the grip of their respective European parents, the US and Mexico

were each seeking to define themselves on the North American continent. However, the former Spanish dependency immediately struggled to control the vast swathes of land it had inherited in 1821, stretching from the state of Coahuila y Tejas in the northeast, to California in the northwest and all the way down to the Yucatan in the south. The population of Texas (a part of the Coahuila y Tejas state) in particular proved a problem for the Mexican government, as it was mainly populated by American immigrants fresh with the notions of freedom, democracy and equality. Though there was a willingness to join the newly created nation of Mexico, as more Mexican immigrants travelled to the state, it became increasingly clear that an American majority could prove troublesome.

By 1835, tensions reached a crescendo. Through desperate attempts to maintain control over its outlying state, the Mexican government had stopped all legal American immigration into Texas. Worse, under the new dictatorship of Antonio López de Santa Anna, an increased centralisation of power was dashing the hopes of a free democracy in the state and the country. In the meantime, Texas had grown rich thanks to its exports of cotton and animal skins amounting to some half a million dollars. This made it a prize worth keeping or, for the American government, one well worth acquiring.

It wasn't long before tensions boiled over into outright hostilities, with the Mexican government seeking to tighten its grip on Texas. The military presence in Texas was stepped up dramatically, and when Mexican troops under Francisco de Castaneda were sent to confiscate a cannon belonging to the colonists of Gonzales, the Texans refused. The ensuing skirmish sparked the Texas Revolution, which would prove to be brief, but bloody. The Battle of the Alamo stands as its most iconic moment, where just under 200 Texans, defending their position against nearly ten times as many Mexicans, were slaughtered ruthlessly by Santa Anna's men. The battle, more aptly described as a massacre, only served to inspire further resistance against Mexican rule and is even to this day inscribed in the folklore of the Lone Star State.

The Alamo, as well as Goliad where hundreds of Texian prisoners were executed, quickly became rallying cries for the Revolution and united the colonists. After the embarrassing







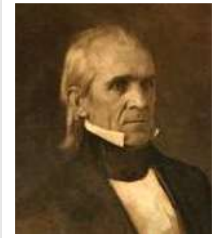
The Mexican-American war saw the beginning of manifest destiny. It saw Texas take independence from Mexico

## KEY FIGURES



### General Antonio López de Santa Anna

Dubbed the Napoleon of the West, Santa Anna's ambitions both as a general and President of Mexico are unsurpassed in the country's history. He offered to lead the Mexican forces defending the perceived invasion by the US, shortly before announcing himself as Mexico's President.



### President James K Polk

After running on a ticket supporting widespread expansion of US borders, James K Polk was sworn in as the 11th President of the United States just as tensions with Mexico were coming to a head. He served only one term in office, before retiring from ill health soon after the end of the ensuing war.



### General Zachary Taylor

A seasoned veteran, Taylor had fought in the War of 1812, as well as against the Black Crow and Seminole Native American tribes. During the Mexican-American War his experience helped win many battles against the Mexican forces. He was elected the 12th President of the USA after Polk's death in 1849.



### John C Frémont

Frémont was involved in numerous missions into the West, searching for potential routes towards the Pacific. While operating in California, he came into conflict with Mexican populations, who saw his mission as hostile. He was actively involved in armed uprisings, such as the Bear Flag Rebellion, and became the first Senator of California in 1850.



### General Mariano Arista

Serving in the New Spanish army before joining the revolutionary cause during the Mexican War of Independence, Arista fought during the Texas Revolution. Soon after the Mexican-American War he succeeded de Herrera as President.



### José Joaquín de Herrera

At times serving as the President of Mexico, Herrera's willingness to compromise with American officials in the sale of territory in northwest Mexico cost him his office. He subsequently served as a general during the war.







The Mexican General Santa Anna surrenders to Texan Sam Houston after a battle that lasted just 18 minutes

“When the Mexican press heard of the deal they were outraged and President Herrera was branded as a traitor”

defeat by an inferior Texian force at the Battle of San Jacinto, Santa Anna was forced to surrender. It had taken just a few months for the small uprising to bring the Mexican state to its knees.

## The USA moves west

Even before the election of President Polk, the US was working to strengthen its presence in California, Oregon and the disputed lands west of Texas. The manifest destiny, it would seem, was not something that would happen of its own accord. Shortly after Texas' successful revolution, talk of its annexation by the US was rife. The many American colonists in Texas were

in favour of the idea, but it wasn't until 1845 that a bill was successfully passed through congress to officially form the 28th State of the USA.

All the while, John C Frémont, a lieutenant in the Topographical Engineers of the US Army, had been tasked with finding a route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific, acting almost as the spearhead of further American expansionist ambitions. In January 1846, during his latest exploration of California, Frémont took with him an armed group of around 60. Like Texas, California was a contentious territory and was desired by Mexico, the US and Great Britain for its riches and access to the Pacific Ocean.

Whether or not Frémont's presence was intended to galvanise the pro-independence American settlers in California or not, shortly after his arrival the Bear Flag Revolution sprang up to gain the province's own freedom from the Mexican state. This was yet another thorn in the side of the Mexican government, who now saw the American grip on the western territories gradually tightening.

In the meantime, yet another of President Polk's agents, John Slidell, had been sent to Mexico City to meet with President José Joaquín de Herrera. His supposed intention was discussing peace terms over Texas, which wasn't yet recognised as a US State by Mexico. Secretly, however, Slidell had been sent with a mandate to offer over \$20,000,000 in exchange for the territories of New Mexico and California. When the Mexican press heard of the deal they were outraged and Herrera was branded as a traitor to his country - there was no way a Mexican President could even entertain the notion of making deals with the Americans. Slidell was

**1821**

### Mexico wins independence

**28 September**  
After over 11 years of fighting the Spanish crown, revolutionary forces of former New Spain, or the Mexican Empire, declare independence from the colonial power.

**1835**

### Texas Revolution begins

**21 October**  
Responding to an increased centralising of power and military aggression by the Mexican government, many Texans revolt in a bid to win independence for the state.

**1836**

### Battle of the Alamo

**6 March**  
General Santa Anna's army of around 1,600 surrounds a small Texian garrison at the Alamo Mission. After a short siege, the Mexican army massacres almost the entire garrison of men, including Davy Crockett.

**1836**

### Battle of San Jacinto

**21 April**  
Taking General Santa Anna's force by surprise, a smaller group of Texans under Sam Houston defeats the Mexican army in a battle that lasts just 18 minutes. Texas's independence is declared.

**1842**

### Battle of Salado Creek

**17 September**  
After re-election as President of Mexico, Santa Anna attempts to retake the former province of Texas. His army under General Adrián Woll is defeated by the Texans.



forced to leave empty-handed - methods of diplomacy and even commerce had failed to settle the situation, so now it seemed a slip into war was inevitable.

## The first shots are fired

With all the pieces in place, only the slightest of confrontations was needed to set the coming war into motion. In January 1846 President Polk directed General Zachary Taylor, which he had previously positioned at Corpus Christi in the south of the state, towards the Rio Grande river. This was seen as an act of aggression at the time, however, the river forms the natural border between the two countries today.

On the evening of 24 April, Captain Seth Barton Thornton, part of Taylor's contingent, set off with around 70 dragoons to patrol an area near La Rosia, nearer the Rio Grande. They cautiously scouted out the area after sunrise on 25 April to discover if and where the Mexican force had crossed the Rio Grande. They would find out soon enough.

While investigating a plantation, Thornton and his men became trapped by a vastly superior Mexican force commanded by General Torrejon. Without setting any guards or taking any precautions to stay alert of the enemy, the Americans had been taken completely by surprise by thousands of Mexican troops that were already encamped in the area. Sixteen



During the Battle of Alamo the Mexican Army massacred almost all of the Texan garrison

of the dragoons were killed and the rest were captured by Torrejon's force, including Captain Thornton and his officers.

News of the Thornton Affair, as it would later become known, reached Washington in May 1846 and gave President Polk his casus belli. He stood before Congress on 11 May and declared

that Mexico had "invaded our territory and shed American blood upon American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war". There was no question of whether Congress would vote for the war, which was officially declared on 13 May.

From the fires of revolution, both Mexico and the United States had finally collided and the following conflict would decide the shape of the continent for future generations. The manifest destiny, the self-fulfilling prophecy of the USA's dominance in the North American continent, was to be fought for on the battlefields of Palo Alto, Tabasco and many others. Soon enough, Mexico City itself fell to the American forces and the Mexican government was bitterly forced to concede defeat.



A small band of Texans took the Mexican army by surprise during the Battle of San Jacinto in an 18-minute battle



The first official state flag of the state of California. It was first raised in the 1846 revolt

## 1845

### Polk elected President

**4 March**  
After winning the Presidency on a ticket promising further expansion into the west, James Polk takes office amid heightened tensions between the US, Mexico and Great Britain.

## 1845

### USA annexes Texas

**29 December**  
After negotiations between the Republic of Texas and the USA, the bill to incorporate Texas as a US State is passed by Congress. Texas becomes a state by the end of the year.

## 1845

### de Herrera deposed

**December**  
After President Polk sends an agent with an offer to buy the territories of California and New Mexico for \$20m, President José Joaquín de Herrera is deposed for even considering the possibility.

## 1846

### Thornton Affair

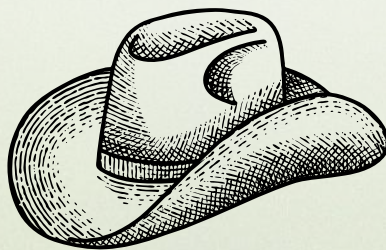
**25 April**  
With General Zachary Taylor encamped north of the Rio Grande river, a small contingent of dragoons under Captain Seth Thornton is attacked and captured by a superior Mexican force.

## 1846

### War declared

**13 May**  
After receiving news of the Thornton Affair, President Polk addresses Congress and presents his case for war with Mexico. The vote passes with a large majority and war is declared.



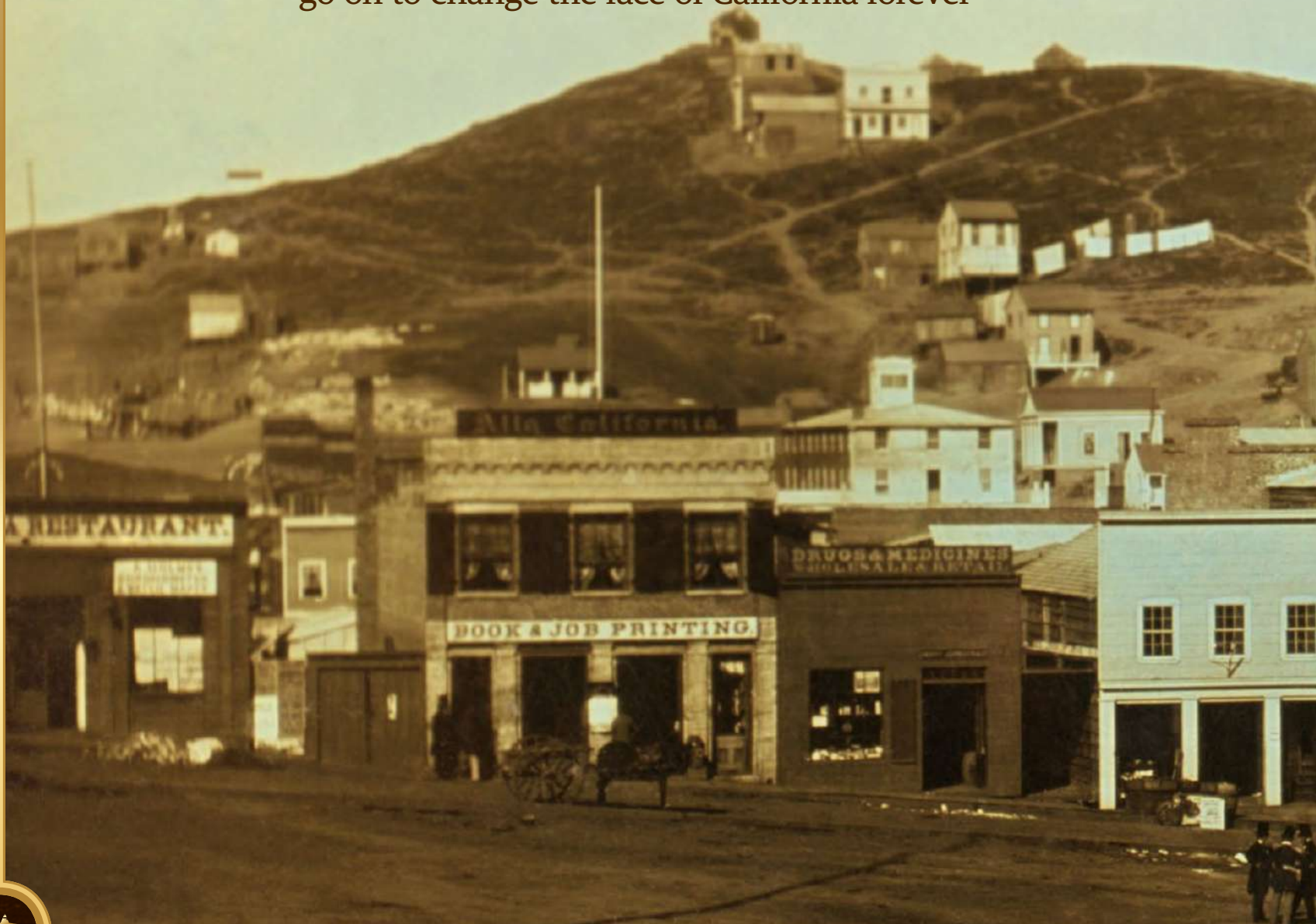


# CALIFORNIA

THE STATE MADE  
OF

# GOLD

How one man's accidental discovery of gold would  
go on to change the face of California forever







**T**he day started pretty much like any other for James W Marshall. A foreman employed by John Sutter in Coloma, California, he went about his task of building a tailrace for a lumber mill he was constructing for Sutter. But 24 January 1848 was not destined to be an ordinary day. During his morning inspection, Marshall noticed a piece of shiny metal. That shiny metal would turn out to be gold and Marshall's discovery would lead to a gold rush that would last from 1848 to 1855.

You might imagine that such a find would have Sutter screaming from the rooftops with excitement, but the opposite was true. Sutter had dreams of building a vast agricultural empire, and he knew that if word got out that there was gold on his land, his dream would be ruined. So he attempted to keep the lucrative discovery quiet.

His plan didn't work, however. Rumours started to circulate, and when businessman Samuel Brannan made the discovery public in May 1848, there was no putting the genie back into the bottle. And the news would only travel further: the *New York Herald* reported the discovery on 19 August 1848, followed by President James Polk discussing the gold in an address to Congress on 5 December 1848. It wasn't just the residents around California who wanted part of the action - by the beginning of 1849 the news had spread worldwide, causing people to gravitate west in the hope of getting rich.

The first gold hunters to arrive were Californians, with entire families making the journey to try to gather as much gold as possible. And, in the beginning, the job was relatively easy. Tectonic forces had pushed minerals (ie gold) to the surface

of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, water carried it downstream and it finally settled in gravel beds along rivers and streams. This meant that gold could be found by panning in streams, or even just picking the flakes and nuggets out by hand.

The reward for the early prospectors was great. They were able to collect large amounts of gold pretty easily - even complete amateurs could gather enough to change their lives. It is thought that average daily gold finds were worth between 10 and 15 times the daily wage of a labourer.

Early prospectors also benefitted from the odd legal situation of California. In 1848, California was technically part of Mexico, but under American occupation (as part of the Mexican-American War). Although the war had ended in early 1848, causing California to become part of the US, nothing



San Francisco became a boomtown, with new businesses springing up to cater for the influx of people





was formal. So California was in a kind of limbo - residents existed with a gumbo of Mexican, US and local rulings. The goldfields were theoretically on public land, but without any executive or judicial body to enforce this, it was essentially a free-for-all. Prospectors adapted Mexican mining law, where a prospector could claim a piece of land, but the claim only stood for as long as the land was being mined. Add the fact there were no taxes or licensing fees, and Californian gold became a very attractive proposition.

Although 1848 had certainly seen a sizeable number of people arrive looking for gold, 1849 saw the numbers explode. All of the people around the world who had heard the news finally began arriving, from pretty much everywhere you could imagine. These settlers earned the name 'forty-niners' and they changed the face of California forever.

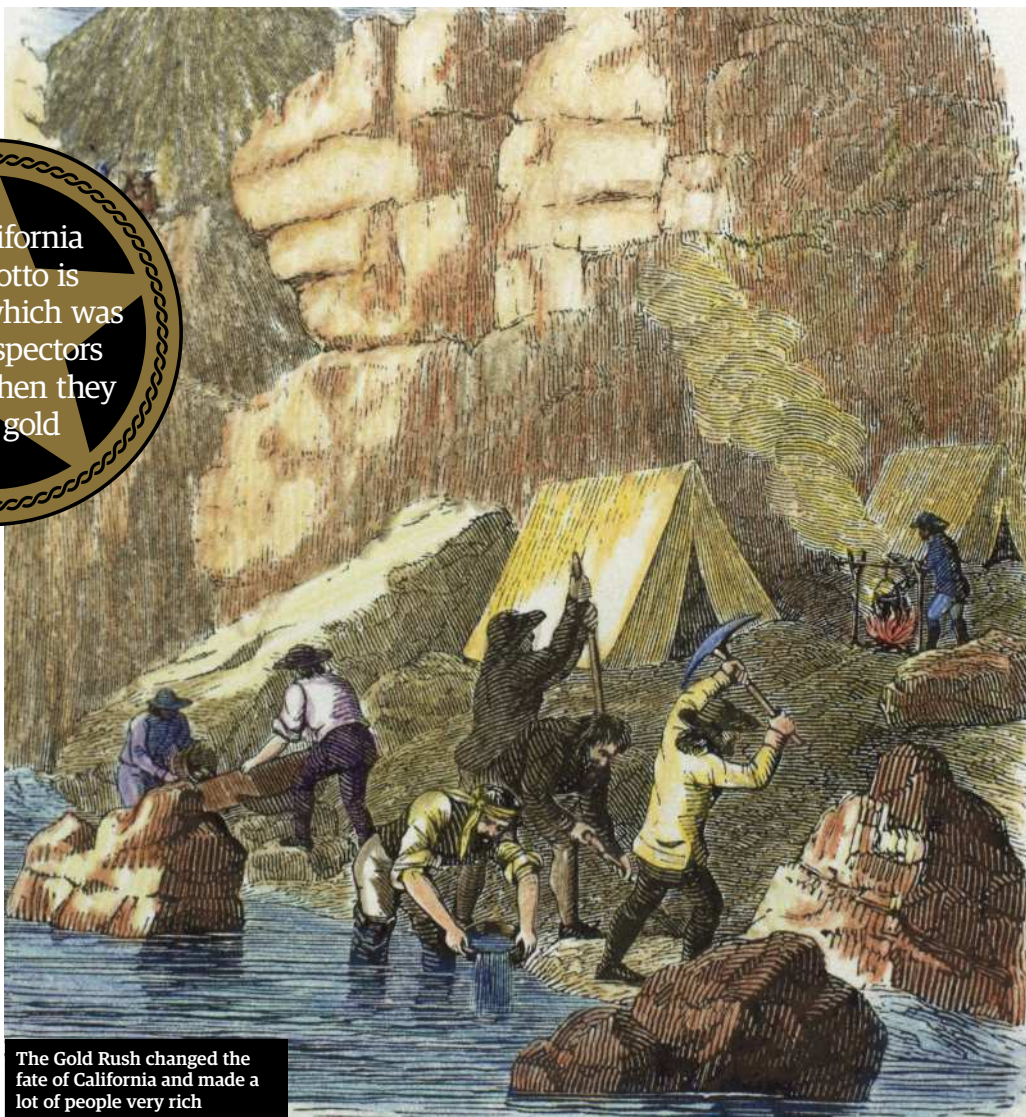
Most were American, with tens of thousands travelling by wagon train, riverboats, or any method they could arrange. But it wasn't just Americans. Eager prospectors from China, Germany, France, Italy, Britain, Australia and New Zealand arrived. Approximately 90,000 people made their way to California in 1849, around 40,000 of whom were from other countries. While the rewards were great upon arrival, for many, even the Americans, the journey came at great cost. For a start, most prospectors had to borrow money or use their life savings to get to California. The mainly male gold hunters had to leave their families to fend for themselves, with women being left behind to raise children on their own and take on all the tasks their husbands would have been responsible for.

But the rewards were worth it - if the miners got there early enough. While the gold deposits in rivers were unbelievably plentiful, tens of thousands of hands soon depleted the easy gold. By 1850, most of the gold that amateurs could find had been taken, meaning more complex mining methods had to be adopted. This included techniques such as 'coyoteing', which involved digging six to 13-metre deep shafts along a stream, with tunnels being dug in all directions to access deep gold deposits. Alternatively, entire rivers would be diverted to access the gold at the bottom of the exposed river bed. By 1851, miners had also moved on to blasting areas to access rocks containing gold.

The hunt for gold had turned from being like taking candy from a baby to a far more nuanced and expensive procedure. It must have been soul-destroying to finally arrive in California after using all of your money to make the journey, only to find that you had to have professional mining skills to get any gold. The disappointment turned to hostility and then to blame. American gold hunters looked around and saw people from all over the world, stealing what they saw as 'their' gold. To try to put travellers off, the Foreign Miners Tax was introduced in 1850, which charged each foreign miner \$20 a month.

Still, violent attacks erupted, most notably towards Chinese miners. While only a few hundred had made the journey in 1849 and 1850, more than 20,000 landed in San Francisco in 1852. But whatever

The California state motto is 'Eureka!', which was what prospectors shouted when they found gold



The Gold Rush changed the fate of California and made a lot of people very rich

## The first Gold Rush millionaire

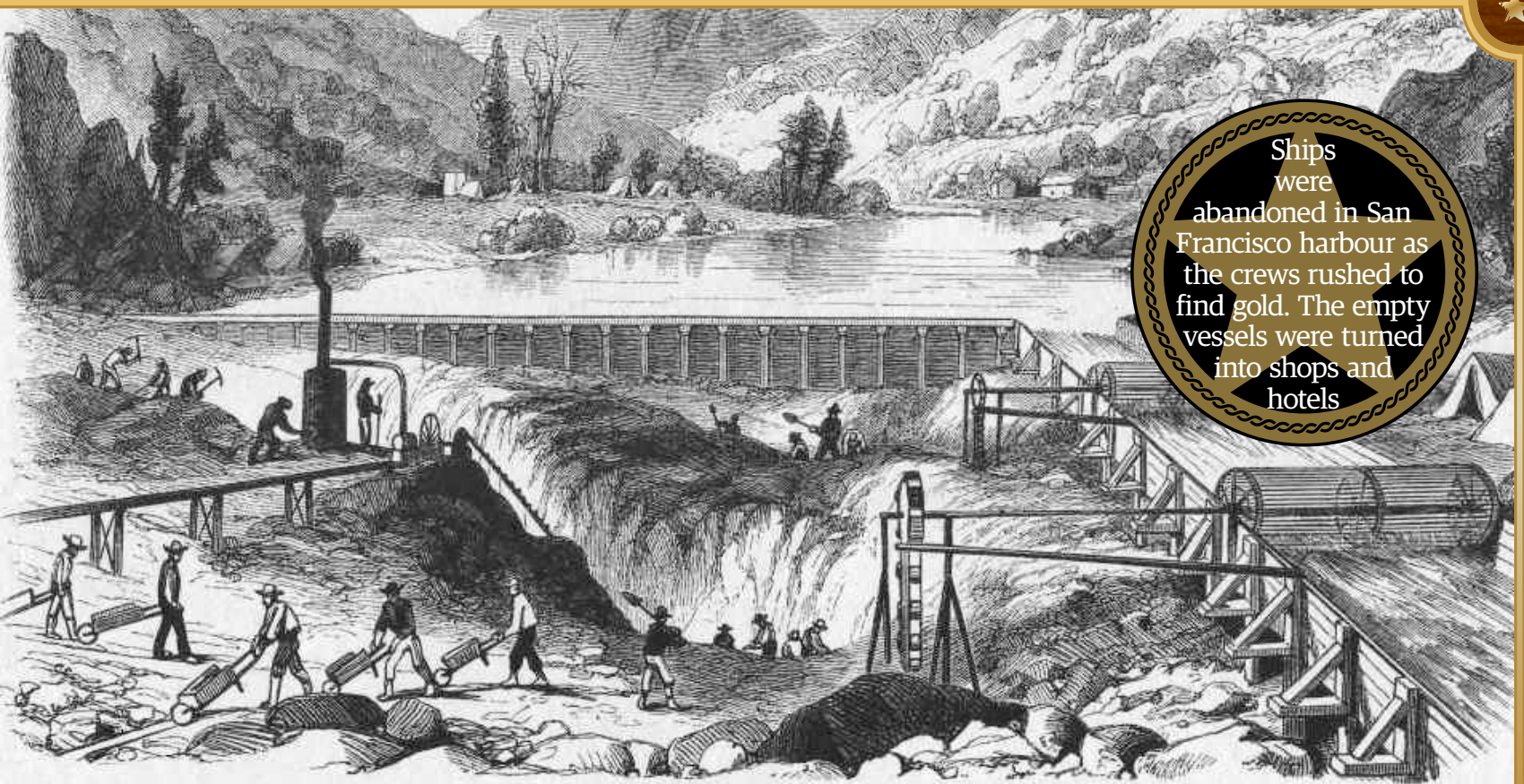
It seems right that one of the first people to publicise the Gold Rush should also be one of its greatest beneficiaries. Samuel Brannan had many strings to his bow, but the most important in terms of the Gold Rush was businessman and journalist. He founded the *California Star* newspaper in San Francisco, and was one of the first to spread the word about the discovery of gold. It wasn't just because of the love of a good story, in fact he couldn't print the story because all of his newspaper staff had left to mine gold. But as owner of the only store between San Francisco and the goldfields, he bought all the gold mining supplies he could find, and then ran around San Francisco shouting, "Gold! Gold on the American River!" to drum up business. Reports have said that after paying 20 cents for each pan, he sold them for \$15 each, making \$36,000 in just nine weeks.

Brannan's good fortune didn't last, however. When his wife divorced him, he had to liquidate most of his real estate to pay her half of their assets. He died a poor man in 1889.



Brannan used some savvy business decisions to make his fortune





Ships were abandoned in San Francisco harbour as the crews rushed to find gold. The empty vessels were turned into shops and hotels

The environmental cost of the Gold Rush was, and still is, huge, with rivers being diverted and toxins entering the water supply

RIVER OPERATIONS AT MURDERER'S BAR.

irrational fear the white Americans had of the Chinese coming to take over their land, the truth was most of them simply wanted to get as much gold as they could, before returning home.

Some individuals made a decent amount of money from the California Gold Rush, others made an obscene amount of cash, but one of the biggest winners was California.

At the start of the Gold Rush, California hadn't yet been awarded the honour of statehood. When Marshall found that tiny piece of gold in 1848, California was a dusty ex-Mexican territory with a small population and little hope. But the immigrants and gold that emerged as a result of the Gold Rush meant that California became one of only a handful of American states to be instantly awarded statehood, in 1850. But while California benefitted greatly from the discovery of gold, it was the city of San Francisco that really reaped the rewards.

In 1848, when the gold was first discovered, San Francisco had roughly 1,000 residents. At first, the discovery did nothing for the city - in fact, it turned it into a ghost town because people fled to get themselves some gold. But then it became a boomtown. As people and merchants arrived, the number of residents escalated to 25,000 by the start of 1850. To meet the needs of the arrivals, new businesses sprung up, including saloons, brothels and boarding houses.

San Francisco became the metropolis of the Gold Rush era. Infrastructure was quickly taken care of, specifically focusing on improving transportation

between California and the East Coast. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company started a regular route from San Francisco to Panama. Passengers would take the new Panama Railway (finished in 1855) across the Isthmus of Panama and then get on steamships destined for the East Coast.

But it wasn't just infrastructure that blossomed. Roads were built, as were churches and schools. Agriculture began on a large scale to try to meet the needs of the new settlers. In fact, for many, agriculture became the real treasure of the Gold

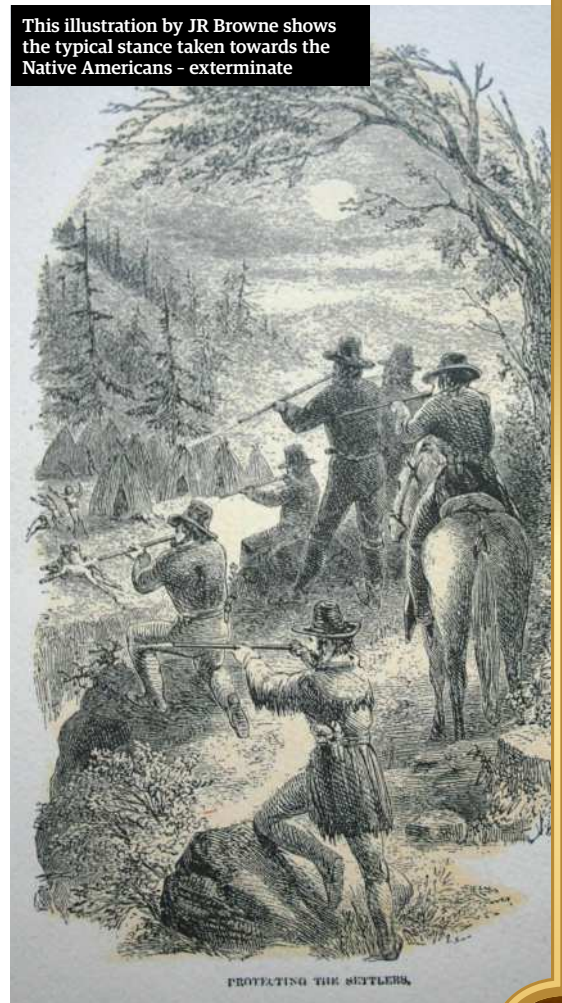
Rush. As gold supplies slowly dwindled, those who put their time and money into agriculture profited from all the people who had travelled to and then stayed in California.

Unfortunately, the elevation of some was made on the backs of others. In the case of the Gold Rush, there were two main groups who suffered - the average miner and the indigenous Americans - while the mining also took a toll on the local environment.

While it is true that early prospectors made a good profit from their gold-hunting efforts, from late 1851 onwards it was getting more and more difficult for the average person to make any money. Gold companies and the CEOs were the ones to benefit from what was left, simply because more and more extravagant machinery and manpower were needed to reach the gold. Most of the late arrivals made little-to-no money, with scores more actually making a loss. Not only did they have to compete against the thousands and thousands of hopefuls arriving from all over the world, but

John Sutter's fears of the gold destroying his agricultural dreams were well-founded. His workers left and his crops were stolen

This illustration by JR Browne shows the typical stance taken towards the Native Americans - exterminate

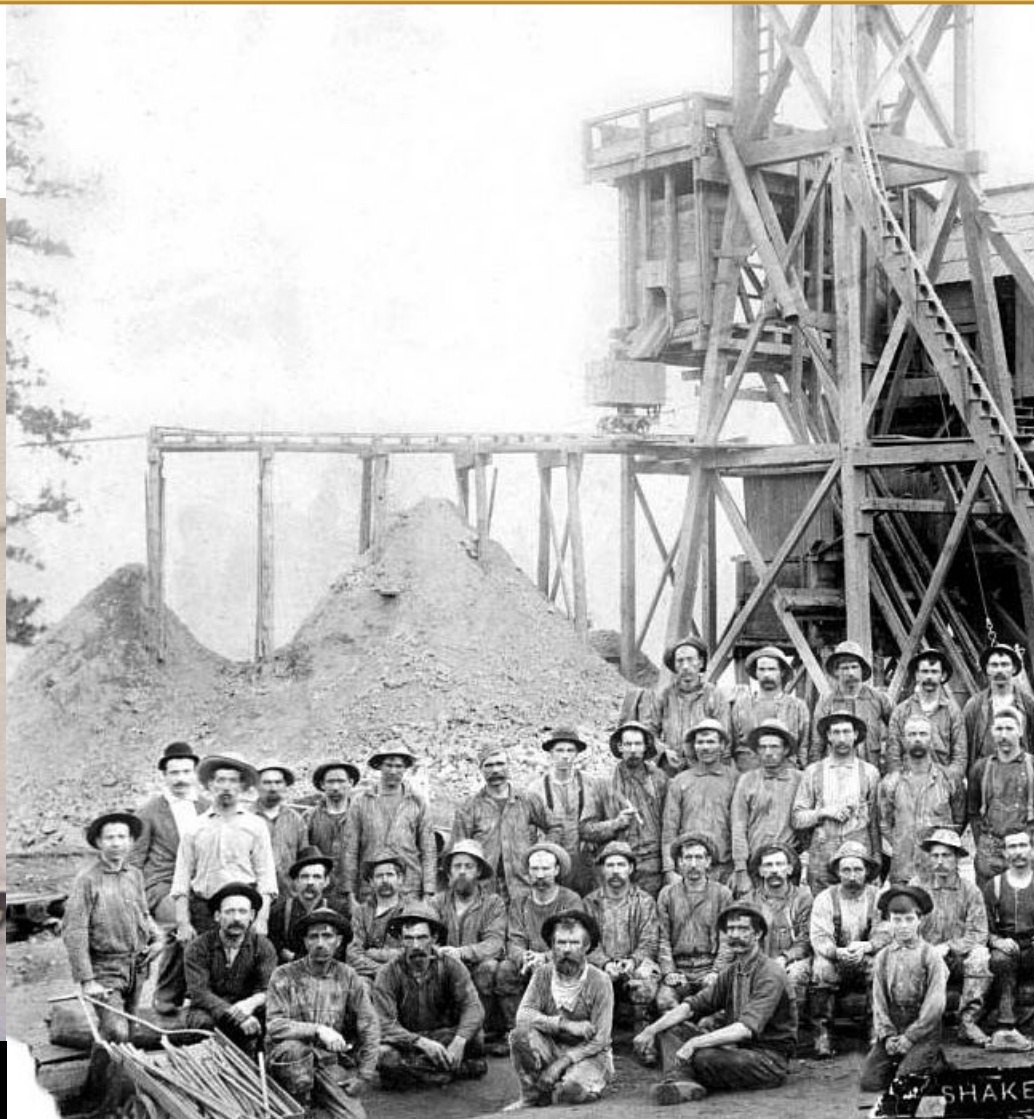


PROTECTING THE SETTLERS.

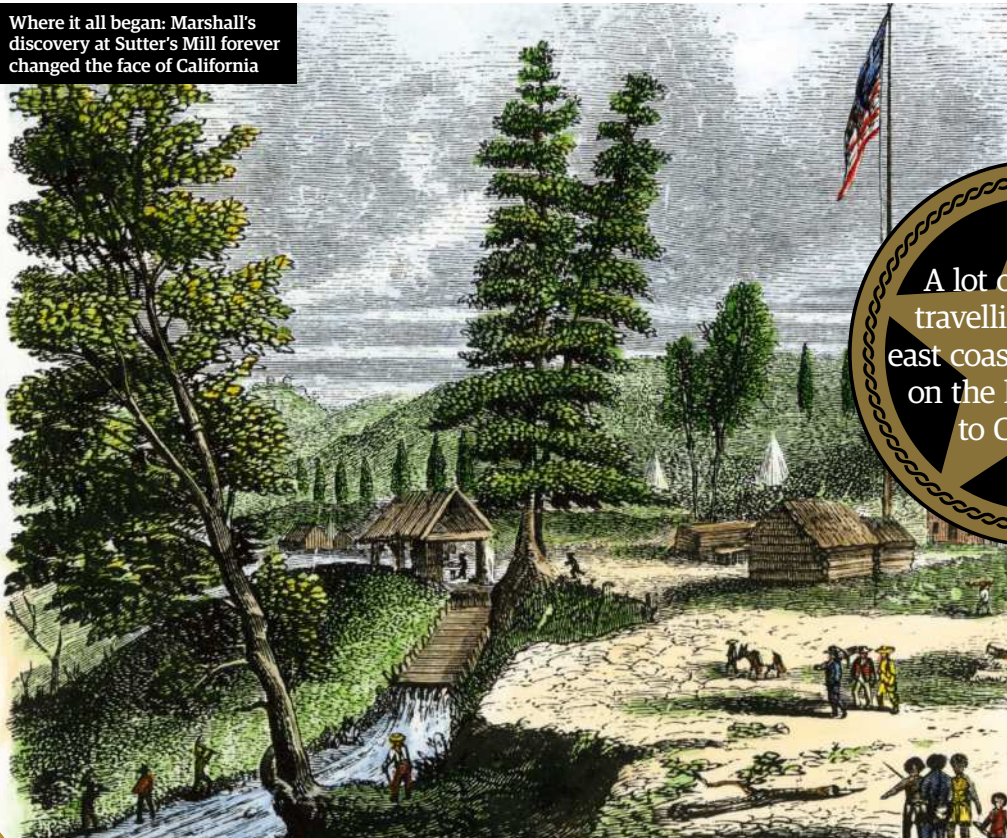




In the early days of the Gold Rush, prospectors could find decent deposits just by panning



Where it all began: Marshall's discovery at Sutter's Mill forever changed the face of California



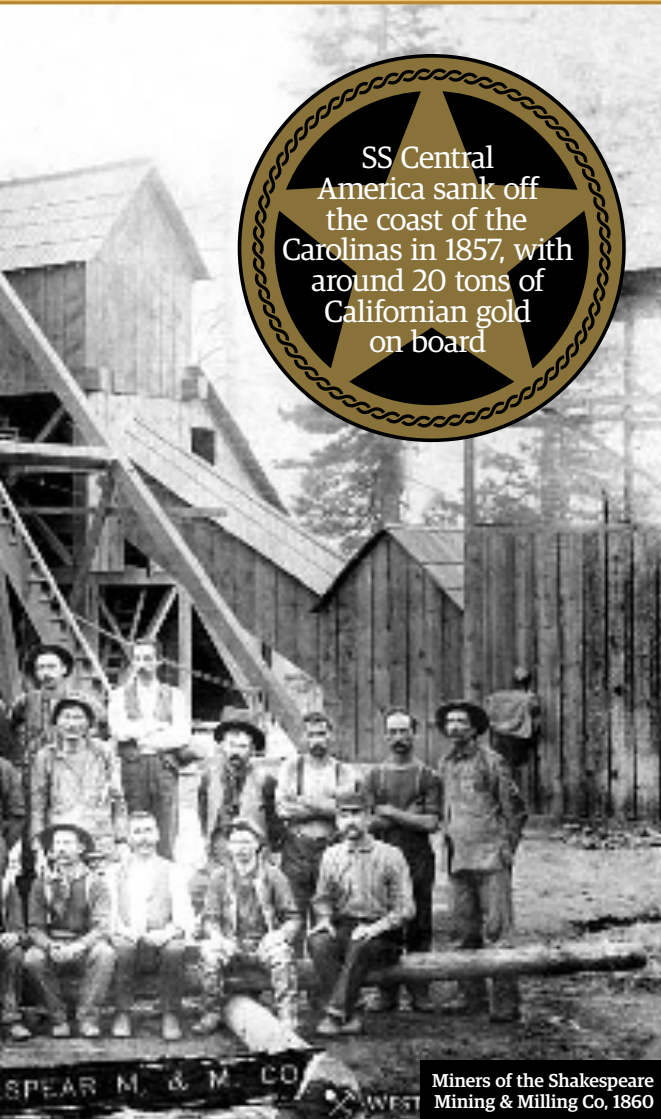
A lot of the 49ers travelling from the east coast risked death on the long journey to California

merchants were also raising the prices of mining equipment to extortionate rates. It is thought that a miner would need to find an ounce of gold every day to break even. And that was for the white miners. If you happened to be from overseas, the Foreign Miners Tax meant it was even harder to make money, let alone a living.

By 1855, it was practically impossible for a lone miner to find any gold. The mining methods required to reach what gold remained could only be achieved by medium to large groups of miners. As gold became harder to find, the methods of finding it became more destructive, which had a lasting impact on California's environment. Where the miners would initially use pans, as the gold became harder to find they would instead build massive dredgers for the rivers and streams. Water cannons would blast the side of hills to try to expose gold. Then there were the mines themselves, each shaft created by blasting out tons of stone.

Hydraulic mining became popular in the 1850s and caused irreparable damage to the landscape. This consisted of a hose directing a high-pressure jet of water at gravel beds. The gravel, and hopefully the gold within it, would then pass over sluices, where the gold would settle on the bottom. The





## CARVING OUT ROUTES

Travelling to the gold fields was a major undertaking for most people. In terms of American travel, it was the journey from the East Coast to the 'Golden State' that led to the building of some serious infrastructure.

For early gold-seekers making the journey from east to west, there were only two routes to choose from. They could take the Oregon-California Trail, travelling in covered wagons. This route involved rugged terrain and some decidedly hostile territories. It took about six months.

The other option was via sea. Again, taking six months, eager prospectors would sail from New York, down to South America

and then on to San Diego or San Francisco. Sitting on a boat, watching the world go by might sound appealing, but this was no luxury cruise. Travellers endured seasickness and intense boredom as well as food infested with insects. They also had to pay a significant amount for the privilege.

Neither of these routes were suitable for the important business of finding gold, so in 1850, the Panama Railway was planned. Built by private American companies, it cut across the Isthmus of Panama and was the world's first transcontinental railroad. More importantly, it slashed months off the arduous journey.

problem with this method of mining is that it caused pollutants such as gravel, silt and metals to wash into streams and rivers. It also clogged waterways in the vicinity, harming agriculture across the Central Valley. This caused tension between miners and farmers, which was resolved in 1884 with the Sawyer Decision, which called for an end to hydraulic mining. However, to this day there are still areas downstream of old hydraulic mines that aren't able to support plant life.

A lot of the mining methods also released toxic substances into the environment, specifically mercury, which was used to extract gold from quartz and stone. Today, environmentalists are studying the damage caused to the water, with the United States Geological Survey finding unsafe levels of mercury in fish from Nevada County.

As well as the damage caused by the actual mines, the processes put in place to keep the mines going were just as destructive. For example, water was needed in the dry months, so dams were created, changing the course of rivers. Wood was needed to work the boilers at the mines, in addition to building all the artificial canal systems. This created a logging industry, which set about tearing through California's forests. But as horrendous as all of this is, the environmental damage pales in comparison to what happened to the Native Americans.

There are some phenomenal statistics when it comes to the California Gold Rush - from the 300,000 people who arrived looking for gold, to the

estimated 370 tons of gold extracted in the first five years of the Gold Rush, worth tens of billions of US dollars in today's prices. Then there are the 100,000 Native Americans who died between 1848 and 1868, in what is known as the 'California Genocide'.

Problems started pretty quickly. The vast swathes of people descending on California pushed the Indian Americans out of traditional hunting areas. Fearing for their homes, they would attack miners, only to then suffer revenge attacks on their villages. The miners had guns, so any Native in the area would inevitably be slaughtered. Surviving an attack didn't mean you were saved, though. Because the miners had taken over traditional hunting spots, any survivors were likely to starve.

But even if a village wasn't directly targeted by miners, the silt and chemicals entering the environment as a result of mining killed fish and other vital habitats for their existence. Land was taken by farmers to help feed the miners, making it even harder for the Native Americans to survive.

The attitude towards Indigenous Americans was absolutely brutal. The miners didn't see them as people, but as something that threatened profit, and so would simply eliminate them. In 1850,

the California Legislature passed the Act for the Government and Protection of Indians, an act that while suggesting it will protect Native Americans, actually made it legal for settlers to use them essentially as slaves, to adopt Native children and also prevent any Native American from testifying against a non-Native.

California's first governor, Peter Burnett, did absolutely nothing to try to help the situation - his opinion being that what was essentially government-sanctioned genocide was all part of god's plan. He viewed the tensions between settlers and Native Americans as inevitable, leaving the Natives with two options - leave or die. The state even funded death squads, made up of vigilantes, soldiers, miners and others, to hunt and kill Native Americans.

Despite the clear damage done to the Native American population during this time, and the apparent lack of caring on the part of the state, the government of California has recorded that only 4,500 Native Americans suffered violent deaths between 1849 and 1870. Like many other major events in the Wild West, the Native Americans suffered the consequences of the white settler trying to make a better life for themselves.





# LAST ORDERS at the BAR

Step through the swinging doors of the Old West's wildest watering holes

Words and pictures by Jan MacKell Collins

**I**n the American West, saloons were a staple of any budding boomtown. Whether high in the primitive mining camps of the Rocky Mountains or on the low, dusty plains and deserts of the southwest, men were in need of a place to sip libations, socialise and escape their dreary lifestyles. As romantic as they sound, those with occupations like cowboys, farmers, ranchers and miners worked and lived in lonely, mostly uncomfortable conditions. The beds were hard, the nights cold and the time in between work shifts could be downright monotonous.

Visiting a saloon meant more than just quenching one's thirst. Here, a new fellow in town could learn about his surroundings as well as the latest news. He could ask for directions or seek the whereabouts of some place or person he was looking for. He could find a job or secure a safe (if not entirely comfortable) place to sleep. Most importantly, he could relax, sip a little whiskey, play some cards and perhaps dance with a pretty girl. A good tavern offered all of these opportunities and could even serve as a selling point for a town, enticing settlers to move there.

For the miners – a transient bunch that tended to travel wherever their luck held out – the local saloon was like a second home. In Cripple Creek, Colorado, saloon and gambling house owner Johnny Nolon was known to allow prospectors and others down on their luck to sleep on his pool

tables and floor for the night. He even provided them with blankets.

In spite of their hospitality, those friendly saloons could also be the scenes of fights, robberies, shoot-outs and other mayhem that came with the territory. It was certainly not unusual to see fights break out over cheating at cards, courting another man's girl or sometimes simply just the need to let off some steam. While some men actually relished a good fisticuff, good-natured tussles could turn deadly in an instant. But that was the way of the Wild West, in an untamed land that found its footing via alcohol and games of chance.

## Gambling and games

As well as drinking, brawling and trying to pick up women, saloon patrons would often play a variety of games. Most historians tend to think poker was the name of the game in the 1800s. In truth, faro was much more popular, for the simple reason that it was amazingly easy to play. The game originated in France as 'pharaoh', but was shortened to faro in the

US. It was also known as 'bucking the tiger' due to the picture of a tiger that often appeared on the back of American playing cards. Faro consisted of one deck and a faro board, and the cards were dealt one at a time into two piles. Simply put, the pile on the left lost and the one on the right won. The numerical order of the cards was unimportant; players placed their chips on the painted cards on the board to bet whether that particular card would appear in the winning pile. Variations of the game as it played out allowed for more betting, and the final hand, known as 'calling the turn', could pay four to one – but the odds of winning were purely chance. Because the game moved fast, faro was very easy to cheat at and is no longer used in American casinos.

Roulette was harder to cheat at. The rules weren't that different to the are today, this old French game used a wooden spinning wheel with numbers on it divided by small metal partitions. As the wheel spun around, a little metal ball was dropped in. Players bet on which numbered slot the ball would land in. But in the west, roulette wheels in the 1880s featured

"Friendly saloons could also be the scenes of fights, robberies, shoot-outs and other mayhem that came with the territory"



a single zero, a double zero and an American eagle. If the ball landed in any of these slots, the house automatically won and the dealer took all money on the table. Later, these elements were declared unfair and removed from the game.

Craps was an adaptation of the early English game of Hazard and was based on what numbers might be rolled with a pair of dice. Although it could be played on a sidewalk, crap tables with a 'layout' were present in the fancier saloons. Essentially, a player threw the dice and then attempted to roll the same number again. Bets could be made by anybody – not just the player – on whether he would roll the number or 'crap out'. Varied ways of betting could make the game escalate, with hundreds or thousands of dollars on the line. You can still find craps in casinos across America.

Poor patrons could still play non-betting card games or billiards. Billard tables first appeared in the nicer taverns, but soon caught on as a great way to pass the time in any bar. Although players could bet on the games, billiards limited the number of people who could participate. Faro and poker offered betting for more players and more ways to bet.

## Bawdy entertainment

A good saloon offered some sort of entertainment. Female singers were highly popular, usually performing with accompaniment by a small orchestra. The songs could range from bawdy numbers to opera pieces. During the 1870s in Globe, Arizona, the St Elmo Saloon featured female acrobats and singers who doubled as prostitutes between their acts.

Other places, such as the Theatre Comique in Pueblo, Colorado, offered plays – although rowdy customers might not care to sit through the entire show. In the Theatre Comique's case in 1875, one drunken customer was beaten with a board by an actress after he insulted her. "After pounding him to her heart's content, she leaped back upon the stage, and the play went on swimmingly," reported one local newspaper.

In their efforts to squelch drinking, gambling and prostitution in their midst, certain city authorities outlawed women from performing in or entering saloons. In 1882, in Shakespeare, New Mexico, one clever saloon owner found a way around the law



This bordello in Cheyenne, Wyoming, featured pretty girls, a piano player and most certainly alcohol



At the Birdcage Theatre in Tombstone, Arizona, a life-size poster of 'Little Egypt' the belly dancer remains as testament to her performances there

## THE WEST'S WILDEST SALOONS, BARKEEPS AND FLOOSIES

### BOB LEE

**Member of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch**

A cousin of the notorious Kid Curry, Bob could play fiddle and deal poker. He also helped rob a train and worked as a miner when he wasn't bartending in Harlem, Montana.



### BUCKET OF BLOOD SALOON

**Holbrook, Arizona**

This rowdy tavern, also known as the Pioneer Saloon to many, was a favourite watering hole of the famed Hashknife cowboys of Arizona, who enjoyed kicking their heels up on Saturday nights.



### CHICAGO JO HENSLEY

**Helena, Montana**

Josephine Airey "mortgaged everything, including her underwear – three dozen pairs of underclothes" to eventually build her Red Light Saloon. She became one of the wealthiest landowners in Helena.



### PEARL DEVERE

**Cripple Creek, Colorado**

Pearl's Old Homestead Parlour House was among the most palatial in the west. The prices ran between \$50 per 'trick' or \$250 for all night. Today the house is a charmingly unique museum.



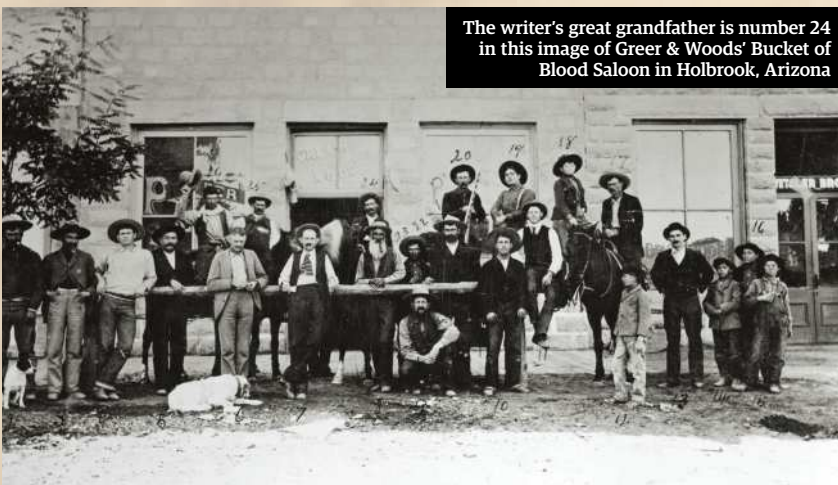
### THE WHITE ELEPHANT

**Fort Worth, Texas**

This historic tavern opened in 1884 and quickly evolved into one of the classiest places in the southwest. The quality food and drink drew wealthy men but also scallywags. The bar remains quite popular today.



The writer's great grandfather is number 24 in this image of Greer & Woods' Bucket of Blood Saloon in Holbrook, Arizona





## UPSTAIRS

This was where you could often find the soiled doves both living and working.

## GAS LAMPS

Before electricity, hanging gas lanterns lit the saloon at night. Lighting them at sundown was often performed by beautiful waitresses or the soiled doves who worked upstairs.

## SWINGING DOOR

Many saloons featured swinging doors for quick entry and exit. Just inside the doors, 'privacy' partitions were sometimes installed to keep meddlesome wives and innocent children from seeing what was going on.

## COMMUNITY TOWELS

Towels hung from the bar so that patrons could wipe beer foam off their lips. These so-called 'community towels' were an easy way to share colds, the flu and even tuberculosis among drinking buddies.

## BILLIARDS

Beginning in the 1840s, billiards, also known as pool, was a favourite game in saloons. Once the game caught on, numerous saloons across the West had at least one table and readily advertised it.

## GAMBLING

There was sometimes a roulette table in the fancier saloons. These beautiful round wheels with numbers spun in a circle, with customers betting on which number would win.





## MIRROR BAR

A good bar included shelves heaving with a wide drink selection and glassware. Most also had a mirror so clients facing the bar could see who came in the door. Fancy Brunswick bars signified class.

## SOMEWHERE TO STAND

Early taverns did not provide chairs or stools at the bar. Standing customers could, however, rest their foot on a brass rail that ran underneath and the length of the bar.

## KEEPING WARM

Saloons were often drafty, so wood-burning stoves were installed.

## SPITTOON

Many men chewed tobacco. Spittoons, also known as 'goboons', were arranged 1.5 metres apart under the bar so that customers could spit out their gobs of chewing tobacco.

## CARD GAMES

Card games were very popular in saloons, with faro and craps chief among them. Cheating was rife and betting was exceedingly popular.

## SOMEWHERE TO SIT

Tables and chairs were arranged around the saloon where men could chat at their leisure, dine or play card games. Some tables doubled as poker tables with felt tops. They also made good shields in a fight!







The Fashion Saloon in Jerome, Arizona, was one of the best-known resorts in town

“Some places even went so far as to serve a free lunch with the purchase of one or more drinks”

prohibiting women from entering his place: he simply pushed the saloon's piano right up to the window, whereby his female musician could reach through it and play a tune while standing outside on the veranda.

Similar laws prohibiting female performers were eventually challenged by the ladies themselves, and many of the ordinances were overturned. Nobody could deny Grace Bartell, who took the popular nickname 'Little Egypt', when she performed her legendary belly dance at the Birdcage Theatre in Tombstone, Arizona, in 1893! Grace went on to have quite a lengthy career; in 1910 she also performed at the famed Palace Saloon in Prescott, Arizona.

During the gay 1890s, the entertainment industry had grown to include more 'variety artists'. Because women of the stage sometimes sold sex on the side, mingling with actors in general was often something that was frowned upon by decent society. The cleaner acts, however, included performers such as Lottie and Polly Oatley. They had a small dog named Tiny, who sang along with them in a soprano voice. In 1896, the girls performed at the Regina Saloon in Dawson, Alaska, as well as in Victor, Colorado. In nearby Cripple Creek, those longing for the good old days could still view the real can-can being performed at Mahogany Hall.

Around the turn of the 20th century, boxing also became a huge draw for men looking for some action. Jack Dempsey fought one of his first bouts in Victor. Later, he also fought at the Ramona Athletic Club in the short-lived town of Ramona, Colorado. After Colorado City outlawed liquor in 1913, Ramona was founded exclusively to house saloons and gambling houses. The local newspaper, the

*Colorado City Iris*, said that the “booze annex [...] opened in a blaze of glory”, but it soon dried up after Prohibition was extended state-wide in 1916. The town – which had 49 permanent residents at its start – did try to struggle on, but it just couldn't draw the same crowds with only restaurants, even with periodic boxing matches.

## Painted ladies

Nearly every town in the west, from small mining camps to large metropolises, featured a bawdy house or two. Some bordellos were no more than a 'crib', a small shack with one or two rooms. Others functioned as businesses above saloons, while palatial 'parlour houses' featured entertainment,



Cleo and Hattie Fay, with their male companion, put on such a risqué show that they were actually asked to leave the stage in Victor, Colorado

dining, games of chance and a slew of pretty girls waiting upstairs.

In the case of cribs and saloons, the owner was often a man who rented the girls and took a hefty percentage of their earnings. This was also true in dance halls, where the dancers were required to entice customers into buying drinks by dancing and obtaining other services in private rooms upstairs or round the back. Madams were also known to rent cribs to the girls, who lived and entertained their customers in their small private apartments.

Parlour houses were also run by madams, who either owned their property outright or leased it from the landlord, often a prominent city businessman. In Prescott, Arizona, Mayor Morris Goldwater owned the former brothel of Madam Annie Hamilton. In larger cities like Butte, Montana, and San Francisco's Barbary Coast, parlour house girls often lived elsewhere and worked at the parlour house in shifts. In the mining towns, however, the girls lived on site, keeping their personal belongings and sometimes a small dog or cat as companions in the rooms where they worked.

'Soiled doves' (also known as sportin' women) were generally ostracised by decent society. They were required to pay monthly fines and were often subjected to arrest and jail time. Most were instructed to use the back door when entering theatres and some other public places, and many were only permitted to shop downtown on one day of the week. On those days, 'proper' women stayed at home and did laundry to prevent making contact with any harlots. A few managed to marry well and were able to leave the profession, but if a girl died of disease, overdose or suicide, her family would usually refuse to come to claim the body.

## Saloon vittles

The customers who ate a little at the saloon were more likely to stay and drink more, so most kept a little bit of food out the back in order to entice them. Some places even went so far as to serve a free lunch with the purchase of one or more drinks, while

Whiskey bottles are displayed at the Jerome Historical Society museum in Arizona





As early as 1865, saloons in Central City, Colorado featured billiards as part of the fun



others advertised a sandwich and a beer for as little as a nickel.

The contents of these meals – which were really just appetisers and certainly nothing filling – were inexpensive for the house and contained more than enough salt to make the customer thirsty. Boiled eggs, cheese, fried oysters, peanuts, potato chips, pretzels, rye bread, smoked meats and stewed beans usually did the trick and were often on the menu, becoming staples across the west. By spending as little as possible on food, saloon owners could still make sure to reap a profit from their paying customers – without losing too much from the freeloaders who managed to sneak food without buying anything.

Fancier taverns might actually serve daily specials to break up the monotony of the menu. The Occidental Saloon in Tombstone, where the notorious Doc Holliday favoured visiting in the 1870s, served up a full menu with a considerable amount of choice. The buffet included such dishes as Columbia River salmon, legs of lamb, loins of beef or pork, corned beef and cabbage, cream fricassee of chicken, ducks of mutton, suckling pigs and a whole host of pastry desserts – all for 50 cents.

Erickson's Bar was one of the best-known and most elegant drinking establishments around Portland, Oregon, in the late 1800s. The establishment spanned an entire city block and offered a free "dainty lunch" with "haunches of beef" and sourdough bread with house-made mustard, as well as Finnish flatbread with platters of sausage and Scandinavian cheese. The meal came with a 16-ounce schooner of beer, all costing the hungry customer just a nickel.



Jan is an author and speaker who writes and gives presentations about various aspects of the Wild West, including saloons and bawdy houses during the 1800s.

## FIRE DOWN THE HOLE

It wasn't just whiskey on the menu



### BRANDY

Brandy was invented when Dutch traders sought to lighten their cargo load by removing the water from distilled wine for shipping. The resulting cognac soon became a hit and was good for sipping, especially in the days before ice was readily available. The most popular brandy cocktail was known as a B&S – brandy and soda.

Gin was easy to make in America due to the prominence of juniper trees from which the strong alcohol is made. Notably, the Tom Collins was so-named by its inventor, who owned one of a chain of Palace Saloons in Cripple Creek, Colorado. Collins came up with the idea of mixing gin and lemonade for a most refreshing drink during the 1890s.

### GIN



### SHERRY

Sherry and schnapps were also sipping drinks but could be mixed. The Sherry Cobbler, made of sherry and sugar over ice with lemon or orange wedges, was quite popular. A Hot Scotch was simply butterscotch schnapps mixed with hot chocolate. And there was the Allison Cocktail, a very strong, bitter drink of gin, peppermint schnapps and lemon juice.

Wine was a staple in finer restaurants and also brothels. 'High wine' contained more alcohol than most and wine coolers came in the form of a diluted spiced wine called sangaree. Sweeter was the Queen Charlotte, made with claret or burgundy mixed with raspberry syrup, lime or lemon juice, and lemon soda. The most disgusting recipe? A Syllabub: wine mixed with milk, sweetened, spiced and served warm.

### WINE

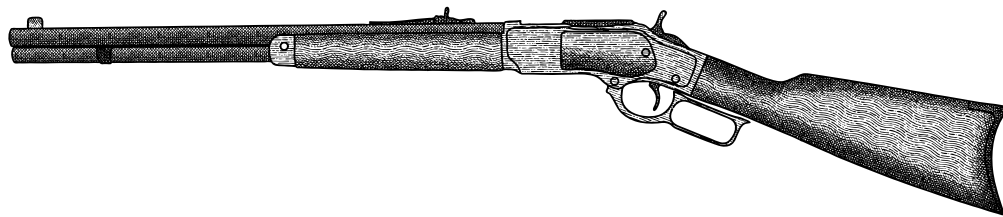


### BEER

If all else failed, there was beer. Steam beer was brewed in the California goldfields and said to be "highly effervescent". Many saloons had contracts with breweries so could offer beer on tap and would advertise by calling themselves 'brewery saloons'. Others sold beer by the bottle (which were often ceramic rather than glass), while 'elephant buckets' that served the beverage in a small pail were also popular.





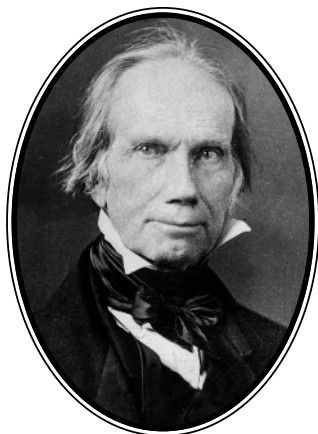


# HOW THE PATH TO THE WEST LED TO WAR

As the United States spread westward, one question divided the nation: would the new states be Slave States or Free States?



Above: The abolitionist John Brown, pictured in 1859, not long before the raid on Harper's Ferry



Right: Henry Clay, the man who brokered the Missouri Compromise

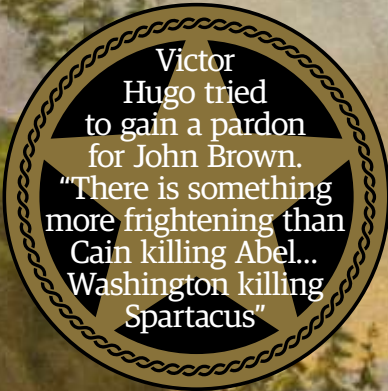
**F**rom the dawn of the 19th century America had been divided. Divided culturally, politically, geographically, even religiously about the issue of slavery. But the Union had been preserved by the division being equal. Half the 22 states comprising the United States were Free States and half were Slave States. But when Missouri petitioned to join the Union in 1819 as a Slave State, that delicate balance came under threat.

Missouri was part of the Louisiana Purchase. This was when, in 1803, the United States (at the time the country ran roughly south from the western edge of the Great Lakes) bought a vast tract of land from France. To give an idea of just how big the Louisiana Purchase was, it doubled the size of the United States, adding 828 million square miles to the republic's territory (that's nearly four times the area of Britain). The new territory was bounded by the Mississippi River in the east, the Rocky Mountains in the west, Canada in the north and the Gulf of Mexico in the south. It was just huge.

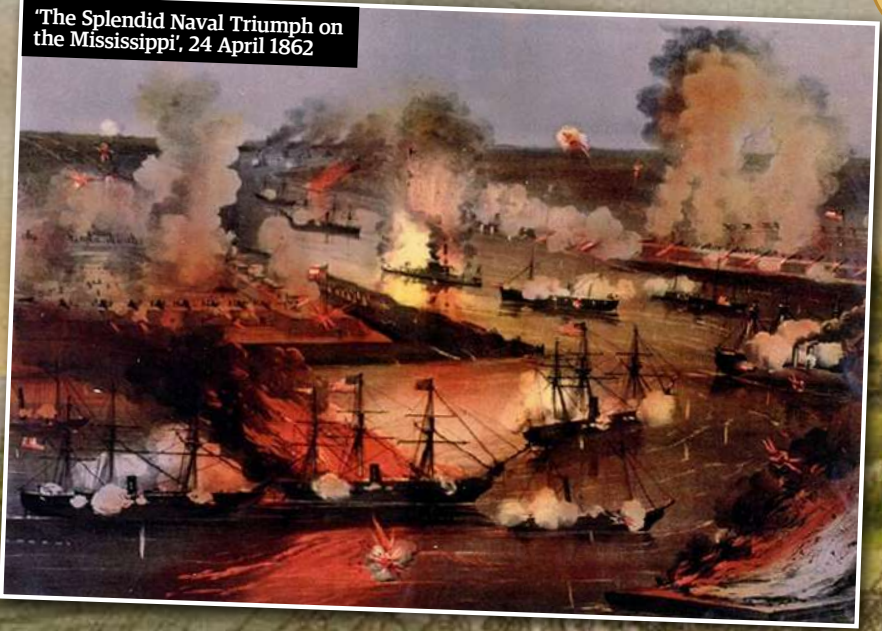
What would later become the state of Missouri was a part of the Purchase and when it had passed the population threshold it applied for admittance to the United States. As a new state, it would be entitled to two senators in the Senate, thus upsetting the balance between Free and Slave States. As rancour grew between the opposing sides, Henry Clay, the speaker of the House of Representatives, brokered a compromise whereby Missouri entered the Union as a Slave State but, at the same time, so did Maine as a Free State. Thus the balance would be maintained. But, critically, the bill as passed also decreed that







"The Splendid Naval Triumph on the Mississippi", 24 April 1862



Battle of Chickamauga, 1863





slavery should not be allowed north of the line of latitude at 36 degree 30 minutes, with the exception of Missouri, whereas any future states south of this line would be Slave States. Thus slavery was extended westwards, with the same north/south divide.

Although the Missouri Compromise made a way forward for the states, a number of American statesmen could see it sowed the seeds for future conflict. John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the USA, wrote in his diary, "Take it for granted that the present is a mere preamble - a title page to a great, tragic volume."

The issue came to the fore once more in 1849 when California petitioned to join the Union. The territory's population had rocketed following the discovery of gold in 1848, drawing in people from both the Free States, who called themselves free-soilers, and the Slave States, who adopted the label Chivs (short for chivalry). Such were the continuing tensions in California over the issue that even when it joined the Union in 1850 as a Free State, nine years later two of its most eminent political representatives, Senator David Broderick and ex-Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court David Terry, fought a duel over their political disagreements on the issue. The men had once been friends, but had fallen out over the issue of slavery. Terry, the advocate of slavery, had taken the precaution to practise beforehand with the weapons they would be using for the duel, two Belgian .58 calibre pistols. Broderick, the free-soiler, had not.

Broderick's gun misfired just before the final count. Hearing the count up to three, and with his gun already having fired, Broderick made no effort to move but stood tall. Terry, knowing that his opponent had shot, had the option to fire to miss. He didn't. He shot Broderick in the chest. The senator died three days later. "They killed me because I am opposed to the extension of slavery and a corrupt administration," he said on his death bed.

Tensions between Free and Slave states deepened in the decade following California's accession in 1850 as a Free State. To mollify the Slave States, Congress had agreed that while California would be free, the people of the New Mexico and Utah territories would decide whether they would be Slave or Free States. The compromise also required that people in Free States help to capture runaway slaves. This led to a considerable heightening of tension between Free and Slave states, as both took up opposing positions on the moral high ground, the people of Free States objecting to being co-opted as slave-catchers while those in Slave States saw their northern brethren as flouting the law.

As America expanded westwards, the issue of whether the states petitioning for accession to the Union should be Slave or Free came up more and more frequently. Just four years after California's

accession, Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas made another attempt at a solution. As Slave States had no interest in allowing new Free States into the Union, the westward expansion of the United States had stopped at the Mississippi River. To get it going again, he proposed a new bill, the Kansas Nebraska Act, which decreed that popular sovereignty would decide the issue of whether these new states should be Free or Slave. Many of Douglas's fellow Democrats saw this as a ploy to expand slavery and they began to join with other politicians into what would become the Republican Party, united by its opposition to slavery.

What's more, when delegates came to be elected in Kansas to decide whether the state would be Free or Slave, the votes were skewed by people crossing the border from Missouri to vote for Kansas becoming a Slave State. Indeed, so widespread was the fraud that two votes were cast for every registered voter. Thus, the Kansas legislature passed pro-slavery laws. But so outraged were Free State-supporting Kansans at this fraud that they began to arm themselves, creating a parallel legislature, while increasingly violent confrontations broke out between Free States and slavery supporters, who called themselves the Law and Order Party. It was a nasty conflict in which neither side was blameless. In revenge for a murder, Free Staters burned and terrorised pro-slavery settlers, before being themselves pursued and surrounded in the

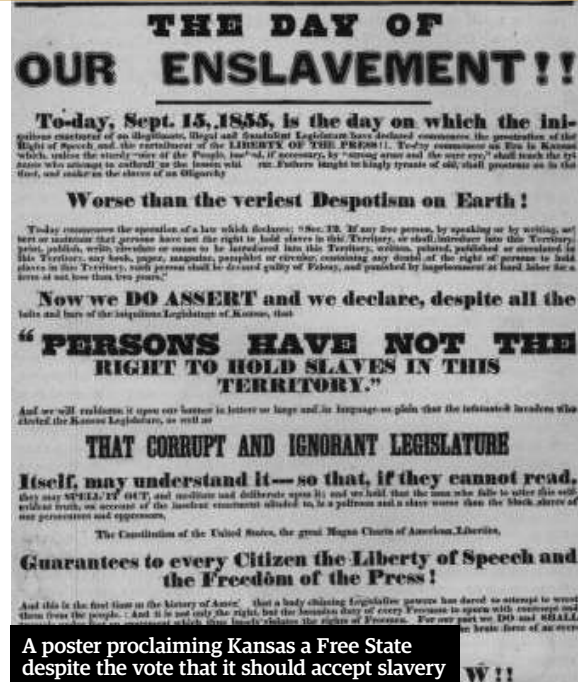
town of Lawrence. In the ensuing siege, abolitionist women smuggled guns to the besieged Free Staters hidden in their petticoats. The siege was called off in the midst of a cold winter, but when the slavery supporters returned to Lawrence in the spring, they burned the Free State Hotel and threw the press of the abolitionist paper, *The Herald Of Freedom*, into the river. Back in the east, Republican-supporting papers wrote this up as the 'Sack of Lawrence'.

The idea of 'manifest destiny', that it was America's duty to spread west, found its greatest support among Democrats

Northern farmers did not necessarily object to slavery but they did not want to compete with low-cost slave farms

After an anti-slavery speech, Senator Charles Sumner attacked pro-slavery Congressman Preston Brooks

The duel between David Broderick and David Terry, showing Broderick's gun misfiring and Terry shooting nonetheless





One abolitionist, a man named John Brown (1800-1859), on his way to help in the defence of Lawrence, heard that he was too late but, enraged by the events, he led a party of men to Pottawatomie Creek where they murdered five pro-slavery settlers. After what came to be called the Pottawatomie Massacre, Brown took up guerilla tactics, fighting skirmishes against pro-slavery militias.

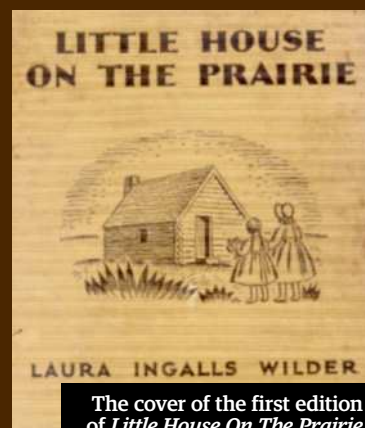
Some historians consider these small battles the first of the Civil War. And with the notoriety Brown had acquired through his actions in Kansas, he was able to gather funds for his attack on Harper's Ferry in West Virginia, where he hoped to gain arms to raise a general slave revolt. The raid failed, and Brown was captured, tried and hanged for treason. The attack so inflamed passions on either side that it all but made war inevitable. On the morning of his execution, Brown wrote, "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood."

Within 18 months, the American Civil War began. As for the West itself, the Civil War and its aftermath transformed it. In particular, three Acts signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 were to prove transformative: the Homestead Act (for which see the box on the right), the Pacific Railway Act which facilitated the first transcontinental railroad, and the Morrill Act, which provided federal land to states to fund agricultural colleges, which went on to train generations of ranchers and farmers. With these laws in place, all the foundations had been laid to 'win' the West. For its Native American inhabitants, it meant the tragic loss of ancestral lands however many newly freed slaves found homes there, settling in towns such as Nicodemus, Kansas. In the end, the Civil War not only bound North and South together, but it also brought the West into communion with the rest of the United States.

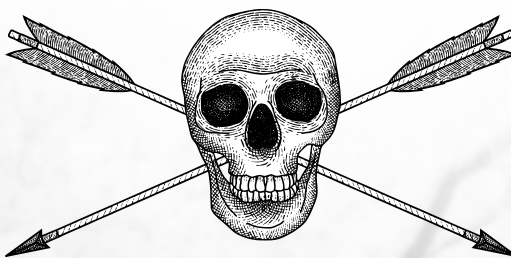


## Lots of houses on the prairie

*Little House On The Prairie*, along with many other stories, was the direct result of the Homestead Act. President Lincoln signed it into law on 20 May 1862, and by its statute it allowed 160 acres of unclaimed public land to be granted to any citizen, or an immigrant intending to become a citizen, in return for a small filing fee. To gain final title on the land, the claimant had either to build a house on the land, plant crops and remain living there for five years continuously; or they could buy the land for \$1.25 per acre after living on it for six months, so long as they had built a house and planted crops in that time. Between the signing of the Act in 1862 and 1900, more than 80 million acres was distributed to people moving west and building their houses on the prairies of the American West. Among them were the Ingalls family, who moved to Montgomery County, Kansas, in 1869. *Little House On The Prairie* was based on the family's experiences there.







# THE APACHE WARS



When the southwest was won for the United States,  
the Apache tribes fought for their freedom and lost  
their homeland in the process

The name  
Apache means  
'enemy', and came  
from their neighbours,  
the Zuni tribe. The  
Apache called  
themselves Nde,  
'the people'



**A**s the United States expanded westwards through the 19th century, its settlers fought, displaced and destroyed the indigenous tribes who lived in their path. Often, the settlers dragged the government in Washington DC and the US Army in their wake. Washington's authority did not reach the frontier territories, in law or by force. The forts, treaties and battles that mark the Natives' defeat in the West arose from improvisations, and often in response to public opinion 'back east'. The series of conflicts that became known as the Apache Wars, however, began with a decision in Washington DC and a war with a foreign government.

In March 1845, President James Polk annexed the independent Republic of Texas to the United States. The endless tide of settlers was pushing the United States' borders west, south and north; Polk was also

negotiating the border of Oregon with British-ruled Canada. To fix Texas's southern border, and to open Mexican-ruled Alta California to further American settlement, Polk offered to buy from Mexico the territories along the Rio Grande and Nueces River.

The Mexican government had not recognised the revolt of the Texans in 1836, or the American annexation of 1845 and rejected Polk's offer. So in July 1845, Polk sent Major-General Zachary Taylor and 3,500 troops to the Nueces River. Though Polk insisted that the United States had no territorial designs on Alta California, he instructed Taylor to provoke the Mexican Army. In April 1846, Mexico declared war - and lost more territory. Under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848), the United States' southern border was fixed on the Rio Grande. Mexico ceded the territories which became the states of California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah,

as well as parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Wyoming. In return, Polk's administration paid Mexico \$15 million - less than half of the initial offer.

One outcome of the Mexican-American War was increased conflict over slavery, for America's already divided political parties disagreed over whether the 'peculiar institution' should be extended to the new territories. Another was to bring the Apache tribes of the southwest under American rule. The Apache tribes' nomadic lifestyle and warlike culture had already brought them into conflict with the Mexican government. Now, the increased presence of American settlers and soldiers led to a series of wars, and the destruction of traditional Apache life.

The Jicarilla Apaches had given the American soldiers safe passage through Apacheria, but the discovery of gold in the Santa Rita Mountains of Arizona, and a sudden influx of gold miners, soon



Geronimo held council with General Crook in 1886 before going on to surrender. Everything that was promised to Geronimo and his people was never delivered



led to conflict. Only months after the Treaty of Hidalgo Guadalupe, a mixed band of Jicarilla and Ute warriors massacred a wagon train. A few months later, a group of mail carriers met a similar fate.

In 1853, the 1st Cavalry Regiment moved against the Jicarilla. On 30 March, after a series of skirmishes and armed pursuits of cattle raiders, some 250 Apaches and Utes ambushed a 60-man cavalry unit at Cieneguilla, a 'little stream' near Taos, New Mexico. In a long and fierce day of fighting, a third of the cavalrymen were killed, and almost all the remainder wounded. The rest of the regiment pursued the Jicarilla into the snow-bound mountains. Many died of exposure, and many more when the cavalry caught upon with them in a high canyon.

A gold rush also preceded war with the Chiricahuan Apaches of the central Rio Grande region. In 1851, a group of miners tied the Chiricahua chief Mangas Coloradas to a tree and beat him. Over the following decade, the Apaches raided settlers' cattle, and the settlers retaliated with raids on Apache camps. Finally, in early 1861, an Apache party kidnapped a rancher's son. An Army lieutenant named George Bascom tried to negotiate with Mangas Coloradas' son-in-law Cochise for the hostage's release - and sparked a war by taking and then hanging Apache hostages of his own.

On the outbreak of the American Civil War, Mangas Coloradas and Cochise launched a campaign to expel all Americans and Mexicans from their territory. Instead, the Chiricahuan Apaches were caught between the pro-Confederate Arizonans and a pro-Union column from California that entered Arizona in late 1862. When the Union militia and Chiricahuan warriors clashed, Mangas Coloradas was shot in the chest.

In January 1863, Mangas Coloradas went to Fort McLane in southwestern New Mexico under a white flag, to negotiate his surrender. His American

interlocutor, Brigadier-General Joseph Rodman West, had him tortured, and then shot. Soldiers decapitated his body, boiled the skin from his skull, and sent it to the Smithsonian Museum. West

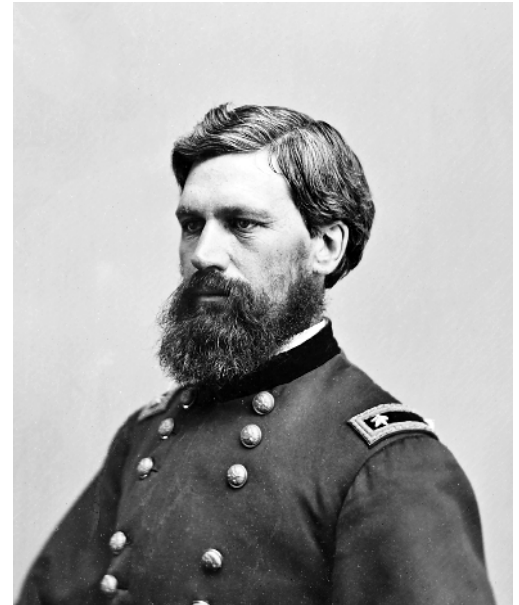
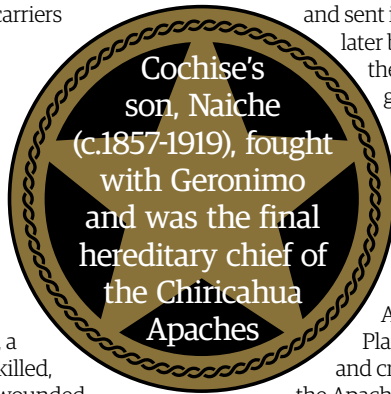
later became a Senator. Cochise took to the Dragoon Mountains, to wage a guerrilla war of attrition. The US Army retaliated with more atrocities.

The Arizona Territory was sparsely settled, and the Army's forts were islands in an arid and often baking semi-desert. Horses died from the heat, and wagons disintegrated on the stony tracks. The Apache were better armed than the Plains Indians, and also more cunning and cruel. One Army captain recalled that the Apache warrior preferred "to skulk like a coyote for hours" before killing his enemy, rather than attack directly and risk a wound. This made him, the captain admitted, "an exceptionally skilful soldier". The Apache tortured their prisoners with the same elaboration and care. This terrified the settlers, and encouraged them to commit violent acts of their own.

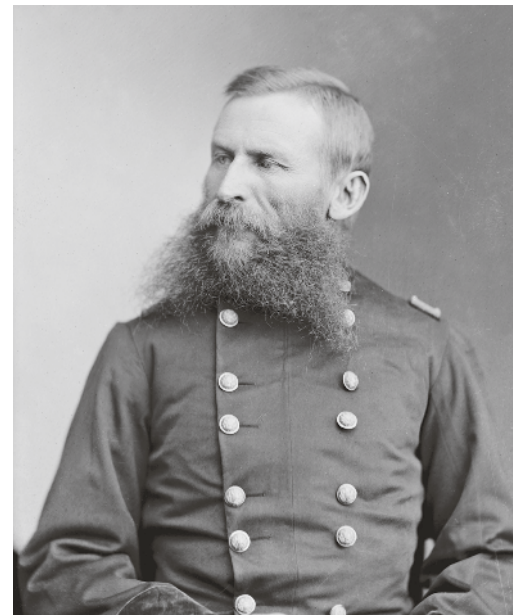
The Civil War delayed the imposition of federal reservations on the Apache. But after 1865, the Army concentrated more resources against Cochise, harrying his people until only a few hundred of them still survived. By August 1870, Cochise, who was dying from stomach cancer, felt that the Apache and the Americans were "about even". In negotiations with Brigadier-General Oliver Howard, Cochise secured a 50-mile-wide reservation for him and his band. In 1872, Cochise came down and surrendered.

Meanwhile, Howard's fellow officer, Civil War veteran Lieutenant-Colonel George C Crook, was to wage war on the remaining Apache tribes in the region, to force them onto the newly created White Mountain Reservation, in what is now the middle of the San Carlos Reservation. In December 1872, Crook's aide William

H Brown led a night attack on a Yavapai encampment. When women and children fled into a cave, Brown ordered his men to fire at the cave roof, so that the ricochets would kill the unarmed fugitives. The Army massacre dignified this massacre as the 'Battle of Salt River Canyon'.



Brigadier-General Oliver Otis Howard, the Civil War veteran and committed Christian who tried to negotiate with Cochise



Lieutenant-Colonel George C Crook, who pursued Cochise and the Apache with unremitting violence, and forced them onto reservations

## Timeline

1848

**Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**  
After the American victory in the Mexican-American War, Mexico loses the territories which become modern California, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. Overnight, the Apache are subject to US law.

1851

### Beating of Mangas Coloradas

Following the discovery of gold on the Rio Grande, a group of miners tie Mangas Coloradas to a tree and beat him. After a decade of intensifying violence, the US Army intervenes.

1853

**Ambush during the Jicarilla War**  
In March 1853, 250 Apaches and Utes ambush a 60-man cavalry unit at Cieneguilla, a 'little stream' near Taos, New Mexico. A third of the cavalrymen are killed, and almost all the remainder wounded.

1861

### The Bascom Incident

When Coyotero Apaches kidnap a rancher's son, Army lieutenant George Bascom forces Cochise into an 11-year-long war against the United States of America.

1863

**The murder of Mangas Coloradas**  
When Mangas Coloradas goes to Fort McLane under a white flag to negotiate his surrender, his American interlocutor, Brigadier-General Joseph Rodman West, has him tortured and shot.

Joseph Rodman West, who allegedly ordered the murder of Mangas Coloradas, as a US senator





Crook's campaign continued for another year, but failed to capture Cochise. When his band resumed its ancient tradition of raiding, Crook went after him. But Cochise died of cancer in 1874. To secure his tribe's safety, he had appointed his son, Taza. But the US government's Bureau of Indian Affairs denied the Chiricahua their promised reservation by Dragoon Mountain. Instead, most of Cochise's band followed Taza onto a reservation at San Carlos, a place that one Apache called, "a good place for the Apaches - a good place for them to die."



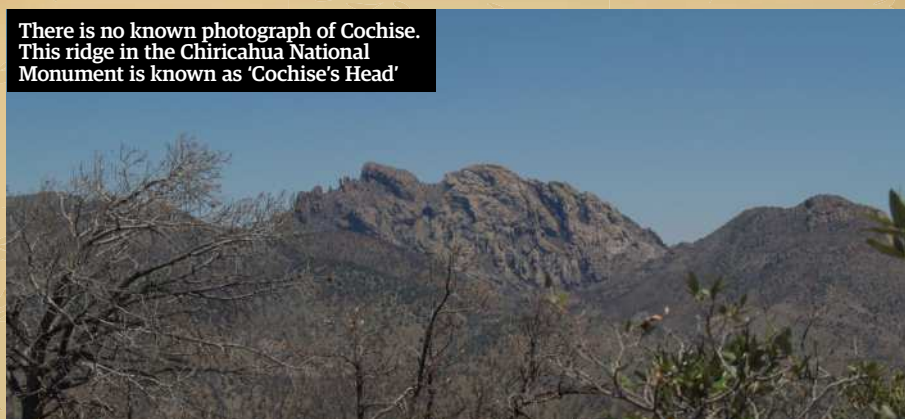
Many Chiricahua continued to resist the farmers and ranchers who had taken over their lands. About half escaped to Mexico with the famous and elusive medicine man of the Bedonkohe band, Geronimo. Lieutenant Britton Davis, who spent years in pursuit of Geronimo, called him a "depraved rascal... thoroughly vicious, intractable and treacherous". Even Chato, one of the Chokonen leaders in the 1880s, admitted that Geronimo was "not a great man at all". He did not lack, however, for what Britton Davis begrudgingly called "courage and determination".

Captured and brought to San Carlos in 1877, Geronimo and a band of 700

'holdouts' escaped in September 1881. Two years later, George Crook, now in charge of the Arizona and New Mexico reservations, persuaded him to return. After a year at San Carlos, Geronimo absconded again, raiding south and into Mexico. He surrendered for the last time in 1886, to his adversary Crook in the Sierra Madre Mountains. Taken to Florida as a prisoner of war, he never returned to Arizona.

Geronimo died a prisoner in Oklahoma in 1909, just before the last embers of Apache resistance flared out. In 1924, the last Apache cattle raid in the US resulted in criminal convictions, not a punitive expedition by the Army. In 1933, the last 'holdouts' in Mexico surrendered. The Apache Wars were over.

There is no known photograph of Cochise. This ridge in the Chiricahua National Monument is known as 'Cochise's Head'



## COCHISE The undefeated chief



Cochise, whose name means 'oak-like' in Apache, was the chief of the Chokonen or 'central' Chiricahua during the Apache Wars. Born around 1805, Cochise grew up where modern Arizona and New Mexico meet the Sonora region of northern Mexico. In his youth, he fought with the Chokonen bands who successfully defeated the efforts of the Mexican army to stop Apache raids.

A strong and tall fighter who lived up to his name, Cochise was not involved in the 1861 Coyotero Apache raid which, through the kidnapping of a rancher's son, brought the Chokonen into conflict with the US Army. But Cochise was accused of the kidnap by

Lieutenant George Bascom, and had to fight his way out of Bascom's camp.

That fight, and the taking and execution of hostages by both Bascom and Cochise, led to 11 years of war between Cochise and the US Army. An expert guerrilla leader, Cochise evaded capture even as the Army reduced his band and forced them into the Dragoon Mountains. In the end, cancer and exhaustion defeated him. In 1872, Cochise secured a small reservation for his people. When he died there in 1874, the Bureau of Indian Affairs forced his people off that reservation, and into the inferior and inhospitable San Carlos Reservation.



Geronimo photographed as an old man in captivity by Edward Curtis, 1905

### Battle of Salt River Canyon

William H Brown leads a night attack on a Yavapai encampment. Brown orders his men to fire on women and children who have fled into a cave.

1872

1874

### The death of Cochise

Two years after negotiating his retirement to a reservation, Cochise succumbs to stomach cancer. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will not honour its side of the deal.

### Geronimo and the hold-outs

Four years after his capture, Geronimo leads a band of 700 'holdouts' in an escape from the reservation at San Carlos. For the next five years, he will raid in Mexico and the southern United States.

1881

1886

### Geronimo's last stand

Pursued across New Mexico after a second break-out, Geronimo surrenders. The once mighty Apache war bands are reduced to a party of 36, women and children included.



A traditional Apache wickiup, photographed by Edward Curtis in 1903

A Jicarilla man, photographed in 1904 by the pioneer photographer Edward Curtis



1924

### The last Apache raid

A group of young Apache men steal cattle from a ranch near their reservation. This is the last recorded incident of an Apache cattle raid.





# GERONIMO

Geronimo was many things – a warrior, a thief, a killer and a leader. But it was what he wasn't – a husband and a father – that mattered most

**G**eronimo's family was dead. His mother, his wife and his three young children, all slain by a band of Mexican soldiers. The profound, all-encompassing sense of loss caused something to rise up in Geronimo: a primal desire to avenge his loved ones that led to decades of fighting against Mexican and US soldiers, earning him the title "the worst Indian who ever lived" among the white settlers.

Born 16 June, 1829, Geronimo's given name was Goyaałé, 'the one who yawns'. He belonged to the Bedonkohe band of the Chiricahua Apache tribe. Raised according to Apache tradition, his parents educated him in the legends of his people, of their beliefs and also of the adventures of warriors fighting for their honour. His was a life at one with the landscape around him, hunting when the tribe needed to eat or tending to the crops in the field.

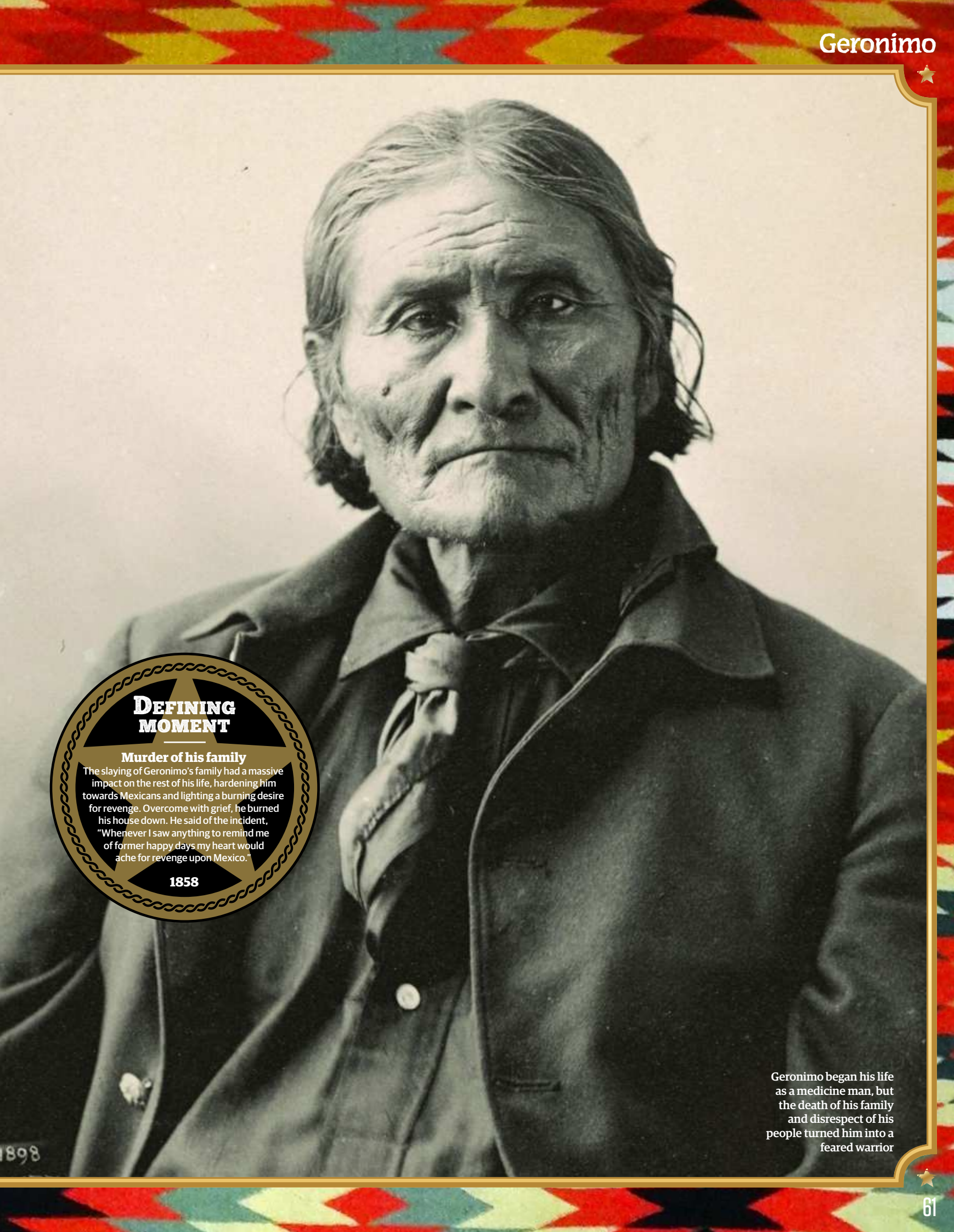
After his admission to the council of the warriors when he was 17, he was free to marry the love of his life – Alope. They set up home near his mother's tepee, and like any couple with their first home, set about decorating it. Before long, Geronimo was a father of three. His children lived the same idyllic childhood as he did, and he was very happy. Then in 1858, his tribe stopped in a Mexican town called Kas-ki-yeh (Janos) and his life changed forever.

While he was out trading, a band of Mexican soldiers slaughtered everyone in the camp.



Geronimo had respect for President Roosevelt and had the courage to address the prisoner of war situation with him





## DEFINING MOMENT

### Murder of his family

The slaying of Geronimo's family had a massive impact on the rest of his life, hardening him towards Mexicans and lighting a burning desire for revenge. Overcome with grief, he burned his house down. He said of the incident, "Whenever I saw anything to remind me of former happy days my heart would ache for revenge upon Mexico."

1858

Geronimo began his life as a medicine man, but the death of his family and disrespect of his people turned him into a feared warrior





Geronimo lost his mother, wife and children. Their chief, Mangus Coloradas, decided there were just too few of them left to stay and avenge the slain, so they gathered the supplies they could, left their dead at the camp and headed back home to Arizona.

Still reeling from what had happened, Geronimo was tasked with soliciting help from the Chiricahua and Nedni Apaches, which he managed to do. Almost a year on from the Kas-ki-yeh massacre, Geronimo stood with warriors from the three Apache tribes, ready to go on the war path. They had no horses and wore only moccasins and a loin cloth. The cloth would also double as a sleeping blanket and meant the warriors didn't have to carry much. Covering 40-45 miles a day, it was imperative that they travelled light.

Geronimo guided the warriors into Mexico, and it was near Arise that a small group of men came to parley with them. But Geronimo wasn't interested in words. The men were captured, killed and scalped in an attempt to draw troops from the city. The move worked, and the next day, two companies of cavalry and two of infantry rode out towards them. Geronimo spotted the soldiers who had massacred his family and tribe. He relayed this to the chieftains, who told him to direct the battle.

This was Geronimo's chance to not only please the chieftain but get revenge on those who had wronged him. He arranged the warriors in a circle near the river. The Mexican infantry formed two lines, with the cavalry in reserve. The infantry advanced until they were about 400 yards away from Geronimo and the other warriors. They stopped and then opened fire.

Geronimo led a charge towards them, while other troops attacked from the rear. His vow for vengeance was all he thought about as he fought his enemies.

The battle raged for almost two hours, after which only Geronimo and three others were left. They had used all their arrows and spears, so fought with their hands and knives. Two armed soldiers appeared and shot two of Geronimo's men. The other was attacked with a sabre. Geronimo grabbed a spear from a body and killed one trooper. The other soldier advanced. The two fought, but Geronimo was stronger and he killed the Mexican with his knife. It was over. Apaches from across the field shouted out their war cry and Geronimo had avenged his family.

But it wasn't enough. Geronimo wanted more revenge and persuaded two other warriors, Ah-koch-ne and Ko-deh-ne to join him in invading Mexico. They set out on foot, following the Sierra de Antunez Mountains. Upon finding a village they decided to attack it. While advancing, Geronimo's two companions were shot dead. Mexicans descended on Geronimo, who fought them off before hiding.

The next two days were spent dodging the Mexicans while trying to get back to his camp in Arizona. He arrived home, but with nothing to show for his journey apart from two dead warriors.

Geronimo was not popular but didn't care - his need for revenge against the Mexicans topped everything else. As he said, "I never ceased to plan for their [the Mexicans'] punishment."

The following years were spent in much the same pattern - Geronimo would persuade some of his tribe to go raiding with him in Mexico, chaos would ensue, Geronimo would kill Mexicans, and if everything went to plan, they would return with supplies. But then the enemy changed. White settlers and US soldiers started flooding the area, with their eye on moving the Apaches to reservations and taking their land.

In 1863, Geronimo's chief, Mangus Coloradas set out to make a peace treaty with US soldiers at Apache Tejo, New Mexico. He was told that if he brought his tribe to live near the settlement there he would be given food, blankets and other supplies. After holding council, it was decided Mangus Coloradas would take half the tribe there, and if all went well, Geronimo would follow with the rest. It did not go well. Geronimo got reports of the tribe being killed.

With no firepower and fearful the troops would come for them, he took his tribe into the mountains. A few attacks came from US troops, with Geronimo and his tribe having to continually move in an effort to find supplies. After initially making a treaty with General Howard at Apache Pass (Fort Bowie), Geronimo, along with other leaders, decided to leave.

While at Hot Springs, two scouts from San Carlos approached with a message asking Geronimo to come to town. Immediately on arrival, Geronimo was disarmed and sentenced to the guardhouse. The reason? He had left Apache Pass, even though he had never been told he couldn't leave. Geronimo was held for a couple of years, then in 1883, a rumour started that the officers were planning to imprison the leaders. Geronimo couldn't stand the thought of being in jail, so he fled.

Geronimo moved around for about a year in the mountains of Old Mexico, returning to San Carlos and taking a herd of cattle and horses. The

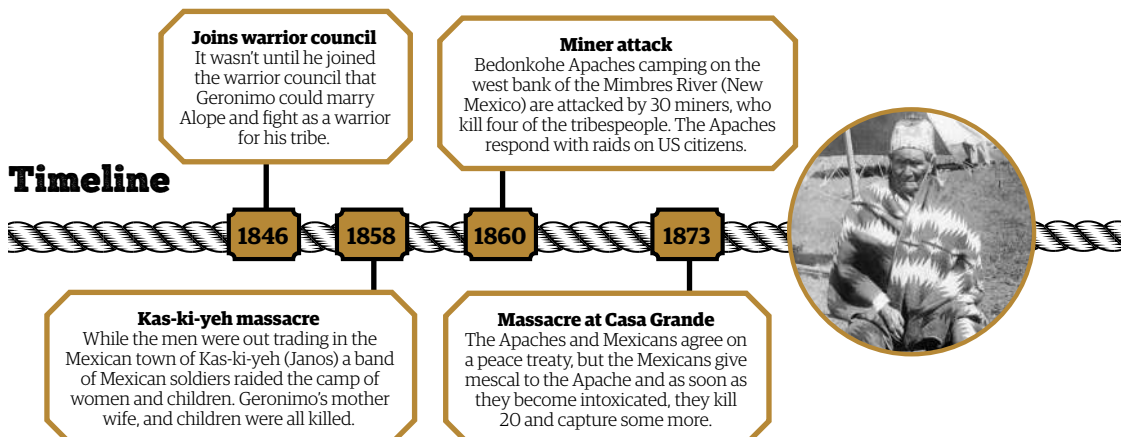


In his biography, Geronimo asserts that General Miles lied to him about what life he could expect after he surrendered

## Geronimo: Five facts

- 1 In his final campaign, 5,000 soldiers and 500 scouts were sent to track and capture Geronimo's small band of warriors.
- 2 Legend has it that as a boy, Geronimo swallowed the heart of his first kill to guarantee success of the chase in later life.
- 3 Geronimo joined the Dutch Reformed Church in 1903 but was expelled four years later because of his gambling.
- 4 Photographer CS Fly's photos of Geronimo and other Apaches (including two of Geronimo's sons) are the only existing photographs of Geronimo's surrender to the US.
- 5 Geronimo's skull was allegedly stolen from its tomb by members of Yale's Skull and Bones Society.

## Timeline







The second inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt

officer in charge of San Carlos, General Crook, took the cattle and horses away from Geronimo. He instructed his officers to arrest Geronimo, and if he fought back, to kill him.

Geronimo, along with about 400 other Native Americans, left for Old Mexico before eventually ending up at the Sierra de Antunez Mountains. Geronimo heard that General Crook wanted to see him, so he agreed to go with him back to San Carlos. While he and his tribe were returning to the US, Geronimo and his people started to have misgivings about the venture, causing them to turn around and head the other way.

This decision did not go down well. It was the third time Geronimo had cheated capture and his constant raids and fights against the US troops were embarrassing. By staying one step ahead of his enemy, Geronimo forced the Americans to constantly chase him. With the Mexicans also becoming more active, conflict broke out pretty much every day.

It was decided that the tribe should break up into small bands and disperse. While on their way to Arizona in 1886, Geronimo heard from scouts that General Miles wanted to meet him again. Geronimo acquiesced to the request, agreeing to meet Miles. He even promised to surrender on the condition that he wouldn't be arrested. He was assured by his soon-to-be host that he wouldn't be, a lie that Geronimo would regret believing.

After arriving in San Antonio, Texas, Geronimo was immediately tried for his crimes. He was then moved to Fort Pickens, where he was made to endure hard labour for nearly two years. He was then sent to Alabama, where for five years he worked for the government. The land, property and freedom promised by General Miles in the surrender treaty never materialised.

Geronimo acquired a celebrity status during his time as prisoner of war. In 1898, he took part in a Chiricahua delegation from Fort Sill to the Omaha Exposition in Nebraska, which led to him becoming an in demand figure for other fêtes, including the 1904 St Louis World's Fair.

Despite his misgivings, Geronimo agreed to attend the fair, and he ended up staying for six months, selling his photograph and autographs, all the while still being held as a prisoner of war. In fact, despite being assured by General Miles that he wouldn't ever become a prisoner, Geronimo spent more than 20 years as exactly that. When he died from pneumonia at the age of 79 in February 1909, he did so as a prisoner of war.

On his deathbed, Geronimo expressed his deep regret at having surrendered to General Miles, telling his nephew that, "I should never have surrendered. I should have fought until I was the last man alive." A man of his word, Geronimo died in the custody of a liar.



## The 'volunteer' prisoners of war

Chiricahua Apache men, women and children surrendered to the United States Army on the understanding that, after being held as prisoners of war for two years, they would be allowed to return to their own land. This was in 1886. The agreed two years imprisonment ended up lasting an incredible 27 years, with the Apaches held against their will with no charges made against them and no chance to make their case in court.

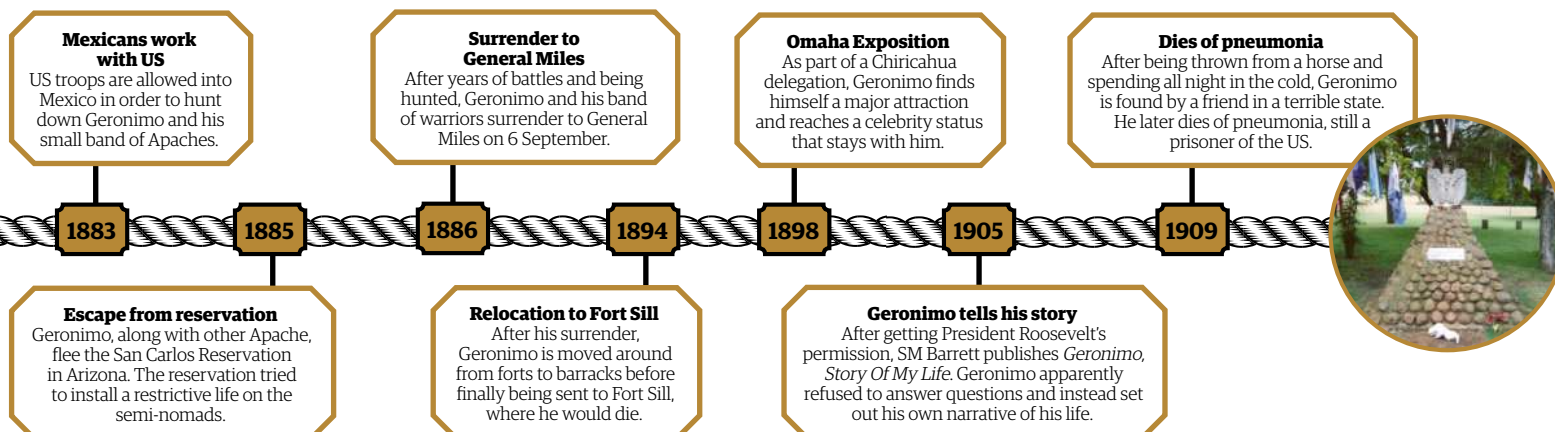
The treatment of the Apaches in these prisons was disgraceful. After the first 75 prisoners arrived at Fort Marion, Florida, the commander said there was only room for 75 more. Yet in total, 502 Apaches were sent. Then it was deemed a good idea to take some of the men and boys to an island, where they were expected to catch and cook fish to feed the others. To the Apache, eating fish was a taboo, yet it continued to be one of their main food sources.

After spending eight years at Fort Marion, Congress passed a provision to move the Chiricahua Apache to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, which was in American Indian territory. Still prisoners, General Nelson Miles visited them to explain that this was now their home.

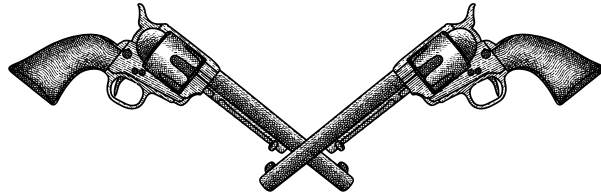
The Senate attempted to free the Chiricahua Apache from their prisoner status and provide allotments at Fort Sill, but this was defeated in the House. The prisoners had to wait until 1913 before for their freedom.



Apache chief Geronimo (right) and his warriors in 1886







# WILD BILL HICKOK

With his tall frame, steely eyes, sharp shootin', hard drinkin', gamblin' ways, 'Wild Bill' Hickok became an iconic hero in the Old West

**O**ut of all the colourful characters from the Wild West, Wild Bill Hickok is definitely up there as one of the most vibrant. In his time he was a wagon master, soldier, spy, sheriff, marshal, gambler and showman. National press and magazines scrambled to record his exploits, building him into a folk hero. Fellow Wild West iconoclast Calamity Jane boasted that the two were lovers and then married, although there is much dispute about this. Even the event of Hickok's death has turned into a gambling legend that persists to this day.

While there has undoubtedly been a lot of exaggeration about his adventures - from himself as well as others - even if you strip away all of the razzle-dazzle, an incredibly interesting figure remains.

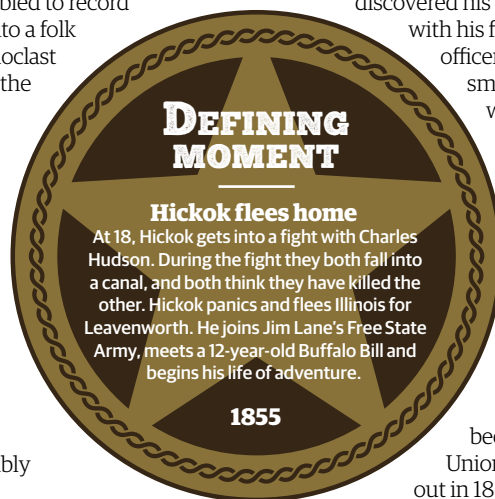
Born James Butler Hickok on 27 May 1837, he was exposed at a young age to the idea of helping the underdog. His parents had a farm but also risked their lives operating a station along the Underground Railway helping to smuggle slaves

out of the southern US States. The important work carried out by his parents instilled a sense of right and wrong in the young boy, and he would often rush to help the unfortunate during his life.

Hickok's childhood was also the time when he discovered his love of guns. While out with his father, they were chased by officers who suspected they were smuggling slaves in their hay wagon. A gunfight ensued, and rather than being frightened, the young Hickok was enthralled. After this incident, he would spend his time taking target practice at the unfortunate wildlife that wandered around the farm and soon became a very accurate shot.

Hickok signed up to become a teamster for the Union Army after Civil War broke out in 1861. That year also heralded an incident that would play a large part in the legend of Wild Bill - the McCanles Massacre, which took place in July.

While visiting a friend at Rock Creek Station, Hickok was told of a gang of outlaws led by David







Wild Bill Hickok cut a dashing figure in the Wild West, with men in awe of his gun skills and women in awe of his looks



McCanles that had been demanding payment for the buildings they had sold them. No sooner had Hickok and his friend been told this, McCanles' gang descended upon them. A shootout ensued, with Hickok shooting McCanles before he got the chance to fire upon him, then going on to shoot another five gang members, knocking out another member, and then fighting off another three in hand-to-hand combat. At least, this was the account that appeared

in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in February 1867. The public loved it.

By this time, readers were used to the tales of Wild Bill and his adventures. It is more likely that Hickok only killed one man, with as many as three others helping to dispatch the rest, but the truth never gets in the way of a good story.

Hickok was discharged from the army in 1862 for unknown reasons. His whereabouts become a

bit sketchy for the next year, but at least one source suggests he was a Union spy. After some time as a detective and a scout, Hickok arrived in Springfield, where he got his first true taste of fame.

21 July 1865, saw Hickok involved in a duel with Davis Tutt, who he shot dead. There is some discussion over whether the duel came as a result of a fight over a card game, a woman, or even because Tutt stole a watch from Hickok and then flounced around town with it, despite Hickok warning him that he would kill him if he wore it. Whatever the reason, the quick-draw duel was the first of its kind and attracted much attention.

One version of the duel has Hickok drawing first but waiting for Tutt to take his shot. He does... and misses. Hickok then calmly rests his gun on his left arm, takes aim and fires, killing Tutt. Despite winning the duel, Hickok was arrested for murder, which was later reduced to manslaughter. However, he was acquitted at trial, causing a public backlash. In addition to the outrage, *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* published an interview with Hickok, using the 'Wild Bill' nickname, detailing how he had killed "hundreds" of men. A legend was born, and Hickok only seems to have added to the image of him being a man not to mess with.

While working as a sheriff in Ellis County, Kansas, he killed two men. A drunk Bill Mulvey was stumbling through the town, shooting mirrors and whiskey bottles and shouting how he had come to kill Hickok. When Hickok arrived at the scene, Mulvey raised his rifle, ready to shoot. Hickok instead waved his hand, as if getting the attention of someone behind Mulvey, and shouted, "Don't shoot him in the back, he's drunk!" Mulvey duly turned round to see who was behind him, only to then be shot through the temple by Hickok.

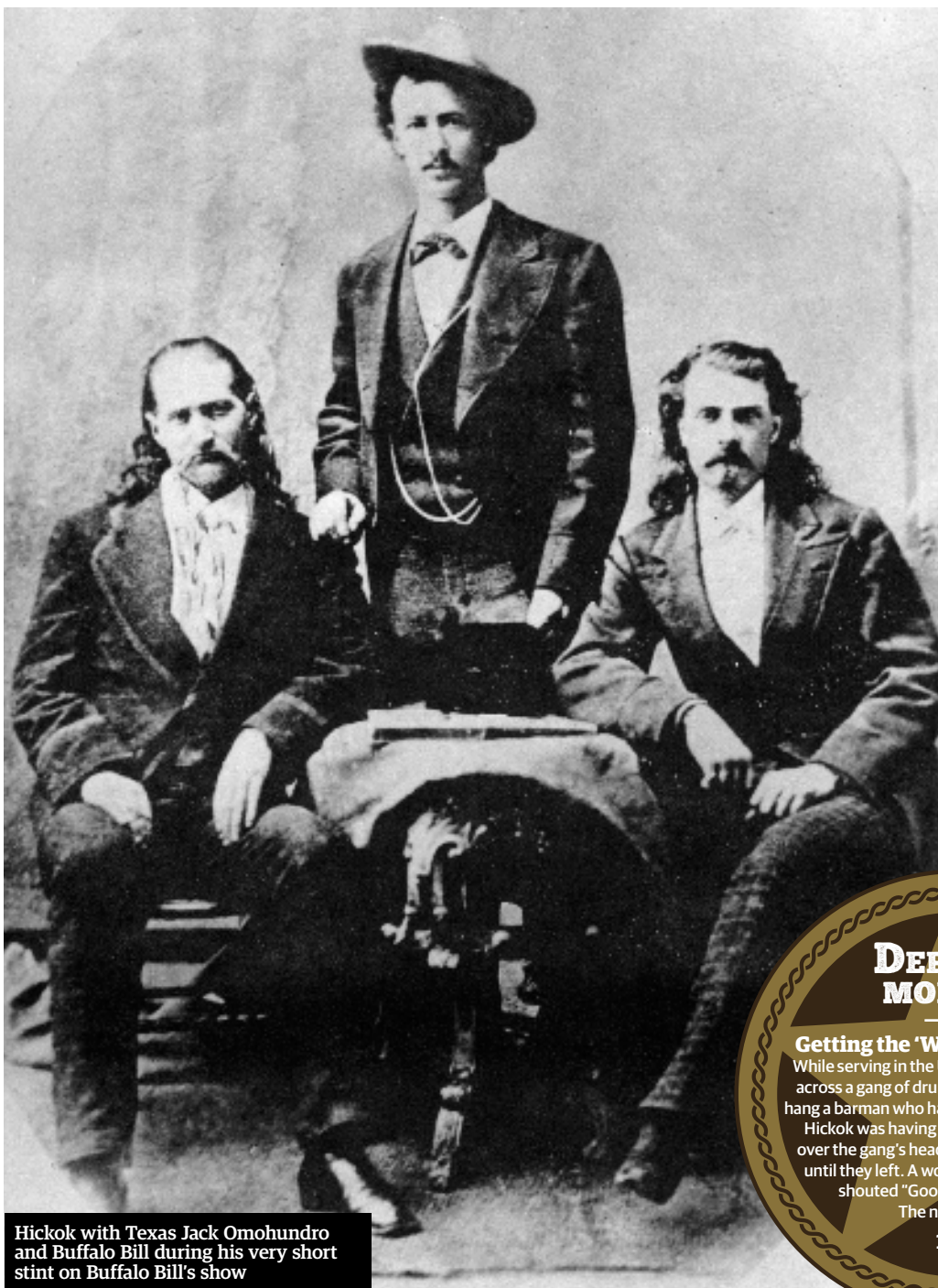
The second man, Samuel Strawhun, was causing a disturbance in a saloon early one morning. After making certain remarks about Hickok, the sheriff shot Strawhun in the head. Hickok's defence was that he had "tried to restore order". Eyewitness accounts didn't quite match Hickok's recollection of the event, but the shooting was considered justified anyway. However, he was not re-elected and instead became

marshal of Abilene in 1871, one of the toughest towns in the West, rife with gambling and prostitution. It was while serving as sheriff of Abilene that Hickok's life started to go downhill.

It all began with an obscene saloon sign. The Bull's Head Tavern was established by gambler Ben Thompson and businessman Phil Coe. To advertise their drinking hole, the two had painted a bull with an erect penis on the side of the building. Citizens were not pleased and

told the sheriff. After asking the pair to amend the image and getting nowhere, Hickok simply changed it himself.

The pair were furious, and after trying to get someone to kill Hickok, Coe started boasting about his shooting prowess, saying he could "kill a crow



Hickok with Texas Jack Omohundro and Buffalo Bill during his very short stint on Buffalo Bill's show

## DEFINING MOMENT

### Getting the 'Wild Bill' nickname

While serving in the Union Army, Hickok came across a gang of drunks who were planning to hang a barman who had shot a criminal in a fight. Hickok was having none of it. He shot twice over the gang's heads and stared them down until they left. A woman who was watching shouted "Good for you, Wild Bill!" The name stuck.

1861

"Strawhun made remarks about Hickok, who then shot Strawhun in the head"





After the high tales of his gunfights and quick thinking in battle, Hickok's death at the hand of an unskilled drunk doesn't befit his legend

on the wing". Hickok's reply, "Did the crow have a pistol? Was he shooting back? I will be," went on to become a famous saying of the Wild West. Coe was eventually shot by Hickok, but in the confusion, Hickok also shot his deputy in friendly fire. He was relieved of duty and the event marked a new, darker chapter of his life.

In 1873, Hickok met up with his old friend Buffalo Bill, who invited him to join his acting troupe. Hickok agreed but hated every minute of it, often hiding behind the scenery and even shooting out the spotlight in one show when it shone on him. He took to gambling, managing to make a living but aware that his old shooting skills were getting worse. In 1876, a doctor gave him the bad news that he had glaucoma, and he knew that his time as a marksman was over. He was 39.

Hickok descended into a fog of drinking and gambling, often being arrested for vagrancy. He did marry, wedding circus owner Agnes Thatcher, who he seemed to genuinely love, but he would still go off to gamble and drink.

It was while gambling at Nuttall & Mann's Saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, that Hickok would meet a bloody end. A man called Jack McCall joined the poker table Hickok was at, but he was drunk and soon started losing a lot of money. Hickok joked

that he should stop playing until he could cover his debts and offered him some money to buy him breakfast. McCall was utterly humiliated but he still took Hickok's pity money.

The next day, Hickok was back at the table. But on this occasion he broke the habit of a lifetime.

He would usually sit with his back to the wall so that he could keep an eye on a room without someone creeping up behind him. This time, the only room at the table was with its back to the entrance. He asked another man to change seats twice but his request was refused. The draw of the table was too much, though, so he sat down to play.

Unknown to Hickok, McCall entered the saloon. Drawing his Colt .45 calibre revolver, he walked up behind Hickok, cried, "Damn you, take that!" and shot him in the back of the head. The bullet blew through Hickok's right cheek and hit another player in the left wrist. Hickok died instantly.

Perhaps fittingly given his love of gambling, the hand Hickok was holding when he was shot has become a famous poker hand. He was playing a game of five-card draw when he was killed, holding a pair of black aces and a pair of black eights as McCall fired. This hand became known as the 'dead man's hand', and is still referred to in the same way today.

## DEFINING MOMENT

### Guilt at shooting his deputy

While Hickok is attending to a crowd following a street brawl, Phil Coe fires two shots. Hickok tries to arrest him for firing a pistol, but Coe aims at Hickok, who replies by shooting him dead. In the chaos, Hickok sees someone running to him, so he turns and shoots, accidentally killing his deputy. He never recovers from the guilt.

5 Oct 1871

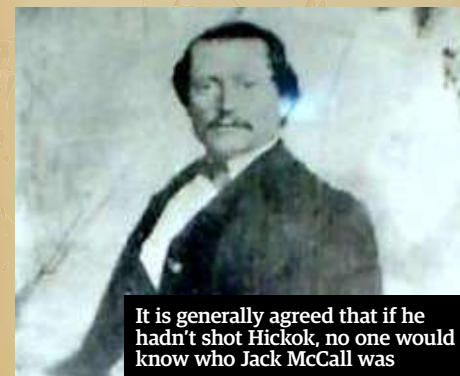
## THE ACCIDENTAL ASSASSIN

Jack McCall wasn't known for anything other than being a drunk and stupid, but by killing Hickok, he secured his place in the Wild West history books. He also secured his execution, although it came in a bit of a farcical way.

After the shooting, McCall stood in front of a 'miner's jury', made up of a rough-and-ready group of miners and businessmen. McCall's defence was that he killed Hickok to avenge the death of his brother. While there is no definite record of Hickok killing McCall's sibling, it is a possibility. True or not, the argument worked and McCall was acquitted.

The public had a hard time believing this. An editorial in the *Black Hills Pioneer* read "Should it ever be our misfortune to kill a man... we would simply ask that our trial may take place in some of the mining camps of these hills." Yet despite the widespread disbelief, McCall looked set to escape punishment. Then he stupidly bragged about killing Hickok, for which he was arrested and put on trial.

The fact that his first trial was somewhat unusual and conducted in Indian Country meant the new trial wasn't considered double jeopardy. It took place in Yankton, and this time McCall was found guilty of murder. He was subsequently hanged on 1 March 1877. When the cemetery he was buried in had to move in 1881, upon exhumation McCall was found with the noose still around his neck.



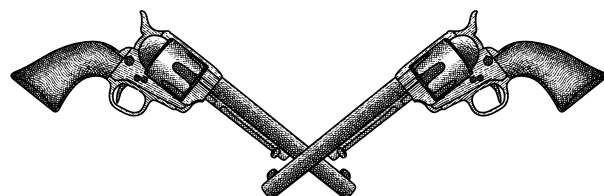
It is generally agreed that if he hadn't shot Hickok, no one would know who Jack McCall was

© Alamy/Getty, Thinkstock, Wiki, Tage Olan



The hand Hickok was holding when he died became known as a 'dead man's hand', a term still used today





# JESSE JAMES

The Robin Hood of Missouri, or a self-mythologising murderer and thief?

Jesse James was a celebrity in his lifetime, and he remains an icon of the Wild West and a hero of the Confederate South. Born in Clay County, Missouri, in 1847, James was the middle of three children. His mother Zerelda had attended Catholic school in Kentucky, and his father, Robert, was a prosperous, slave-holding farmer and evangelical preacher. When Jesse was three, his father, having gone West to minister prospectors in the Gold Rush, died. Zerelda married twice in the next five years, giving Jesse four half-siblings.

Through the 1850s, the USA slid towards civil war. Missouri was on the border between the North and the South, and the frontline cut across its society. Clay County, with more slaveholders and more slaves than average, was known as 'Little Dixie'. When the Civil War began in 1861, Jesse's elder brother Frank joined the Confederate Army.

Missouri became a battleground for militias, the 'Bushwhackers' for the Confederacy, the 'Jayhawkers' for the Union. Both groups committed atrocities. The Bushwhackers murdered Unionist sympathisers and executed Unionist prisoners, sometimes scalping the corpses. The Jayhawkers burned farms, executed Confederate sympathisers and even expelled them from Missouri. In 1863, after Frank James had joined the Bushwhackers, a Jayhawker militia raided his family's farm. The Unionists tortured

Jesse's stepfather, and may have flogged 15-year-old Jesse too. Frank escaped and joined Quantrill's Raiders, a notorious guerrilla cavalry unit led by William C Quantrill. Frank likely took part in the massacre by Quantrill's Raiders of more than 200 men and boys at the Jayhawker stronghold of Lawrence, Kansas, in August 1863.

Frank returned home in the summer of 1864, and recruited his younger brother. Soon, they were riding with another notorious Bushwhacker leader, William 'Bloody Bill' Anderson. Jesse was shot in the chest within weeks. He recovered in time to take part in the Centralia Massacre. In September 1864, Anderson's men, drunk on whiskey, raided Centralia, Missouri, and captured a train. They ordered the 23 Union soldiers on the train to strip, then they shot, maimed and scalped them all. Pursued by a Jayhawker militia, the next day Anderson's group ambushed and slaughtered more than 100 men.

When the Union authorities expelled Jesse and Frank's family from Clay County, and after Anderson's death a few weeks later, the brothers split. Frank went into Kentucky with Quantrill, and Jesse into Texas with Anderson's lieutenant, Archie Clement. In a fight with a Union patrol near Lexington, Jesse survived a second chest wound. Recovering at his uncle's house in nearby Harlem, he fell in love with his first cousin, Zerelda Mimms.

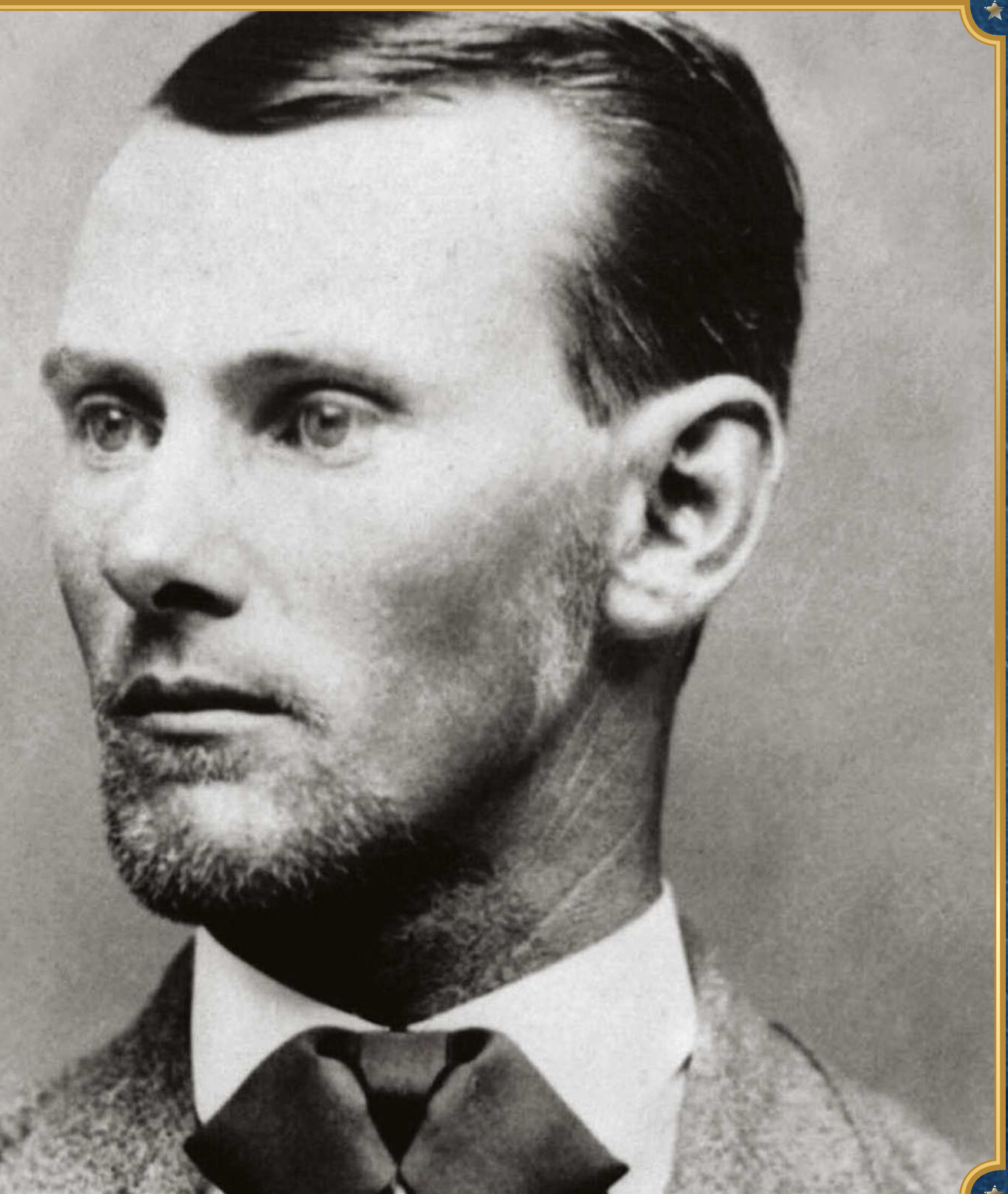
## DEFINING MOMENT

### Taking the reins

When Frank James was identified as a member of a Confederate guerrilla unit operating in Clay County, a Union militia raided his family's farm. Jesse, then 15, witnessed the mock hanging of his stepfather Reuben Samuels. It is believed that the Jayhawkers whipped Jesse too. By the end of the year, Jesse had joined Frank's militia unit.

May 1863









Jesse (left) and Frank James in 1872



Bob, Jim and Cole Younger, sitting left to right with their sister Henrietta

The war ended in 1865, but Jesse, like many Confederate veterans, failed to adjust to the peace. The society he had known was in ruins, and the Republican government was set upon Reconstruction, the rebuilding of Southern society. The Bushwhackers carried on their war. In 1866, Clement's gang conducted the USA's first armed bank robbery, in a bank owned by Republican ex-Jayhawkers. A government militia killed Clement soon after, but his gang carried on robbing banks, killing civilians in the process.

In 1869, raiding a bank in Gallatin, Missouri, Jesse murdered a cashier - he had mistaken him for the killer of 'Bloody Bill' Anderson. The killing, and the brothers' daring escape from the posse that chased them out of town, made Jesse the most famous of the ex-guerrilla 'outlaws'.

Jesse liked his fame. He formed an alliance with another ex-Confederate cavalryman, John

Edwards, the editor of the *Kansas City Times*, who published letters in which James claimed his innocence, defended the Confederacy and denounced the Republicans.

Edwards, who campaigned to undo Reconstruction by bringing ex-Confederates to office in Missouri, praised James for remaining true to old Dixie. The legend of Jesse James was born in the pages of the *Kansas City Times*.

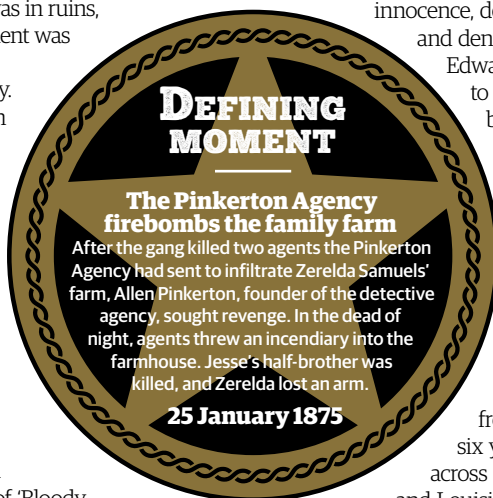
Meanwhile, the James brothers teamed up with the Younger brothers, four ex-Bushwhackers from Missouri. For the next six years, the gang ranged across Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri and Louisiana, robbing banks, trains and stagecoaches. Numerous civilians were killed along the way, but the gang also acquired a reputation for chivalry. Not all of this was the work of John Edwards of the *Kansas City Times*.

In 1872, after a young girl had been shot in crossfire during a bank robbery at Columbia,

Kentucky, Jesse wrote to the *Kansas City Times* denying that his men had shot her. But by attempting to clear his name so publicly, he incriminated the Younger Brothers in the robbery. In January 1874, during a stagecoach robbery in Arkansas, the gang returned a watch to its owner when they discovered that he was a Confederate veteran. They told him that the North had driven them to crime. Two weeks later, when the gang robbed a train at Gads Hill, Missouri, they checked the passengers' hands so as to not steal from any manual labourers.

By now, the Pinkerton Detective Agency was on their trail. In January 1875, following the murder of several Pinkerton agents, a group of Pinkerton detectives firebombed the James family farm. Jesse's mother lost her right arm, and Jesse's nine-year-old half-brother Archie was killed.

The gang's luck ran out on 7 September 1876, when it raided the First National Bank at Northfield, Minnesota. While Frank James, Bob Younger and an accomplice named Charlie Pitts held up the bank, Jesse James and four other men rode up and down the street, firing their guns in the air to keep people indoors. But the residents broke out their own weapons. Two of the gang were killed. Cole Younger was hit in the leg, Bob Younger in the arm, and Jim Younger in the face. The survivors escaped with only



## DEFINING MOMENT

### The Pinkerton Agency firebombs the family farm

After the gang killed two agents the Pinkerton Agency had sent to infiltrate Zerelda Samuels' farm, Allen Pinkerton, founder of the detective agency, sought revenge. In the dead of night, agents threw an incendiary into the farmhouse. Jesse's half-brother was killed, and Zerelda lost an arm.

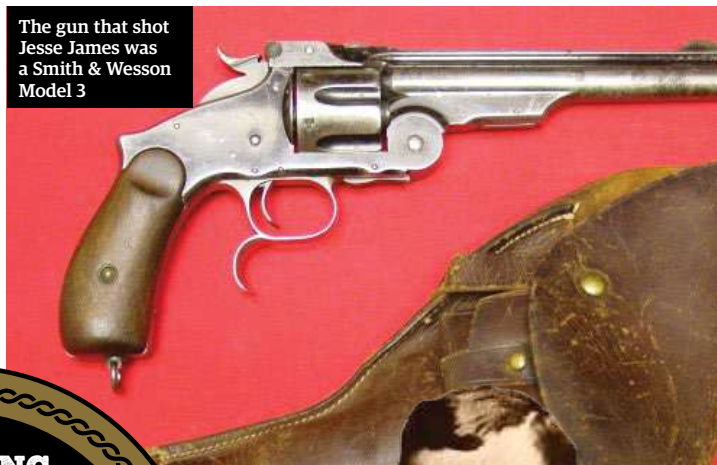
25 January 1875





A young Jesse James photographed in c.1864

The gun that shot Jesse James was a Smith & Wesson Model 3



## DEFINING MOMENT

### The Northfield Raid

The gang targeted Northfield, Minnesota's bank, because they believed it to be associated with two Republican politicians, both with connections to the Union army that occupied the South after 1865. The townspeople fought back, killing two of the eight-man gang, and wounding the other six as they fled under gunfire.

7 September  
1876



Robert Ford, the man who shot Jesse James

"When the gang robbed a train at Gads Hill, they checked the passengers' hands so as to not steal from any manual labourers"

a few bags of nickels, and all had been wounded - Jesse in the leg - as they fled.

Chased by hundreds of militiamen, the gang split up. Two weeks later, the Youngers and Charlie Pitts were captured after a gunfight near La Salle, Minnesota. Tried, they received life sentences.

Frank and Jesse escaped to a farm in Nashville, Tennessee. They lived quietly for the next three years, until Jesse could no longer bear the tedium. In early 1879, he recruited a new gang and returned to crime. After a spree of train robberies, Missouri's new governor Thomas T Crittenden persuaded his officials and the railroad executives to offer a large reward for James's capture. But no one turned the gang in: sympathy ran high among ex-Confederates.

Instead, James was murdered in his own home by one of his own men, a new recruit named Robert Ford. With his brother Charley, Robert Ford

approached Governor Crittenden and agreed to solve the problem of Jesse James in return for a reward of \$5,000. Just after breakfast on 3 April 1882, as an unarmed James climbed onto a chair in his living room to wipe dust from a picture, Robert Ford shot him in the back of the head at point-blank range.

In a single day, the Ford brothers surrendered, were indicted for murder, sentenced to death and then pardoned. The cowardly nature of James's killing, and the impression that Missouri's governor had conspired in James's assassination, further burnished the legend of Jesse James. Charley Ford, a morphine addict, committed suicide the following year.

After murdering James, Ford had opened a saloon in Creede, Colorado. In June 1892, a man named Edward O'Kelley served the verdict of the court of public opinion on Robert Ford - by gunning the man down in his own saloon with a shotgun. O'Kelley was

sentenced to life in prison, but was pardoned in 1902 after a petition signed by thousands.

Surprisingly, several of the key members of the James-Younger gang survived and played a part in maintaining the legend of Jesse James. Frank James surrendered in October 1882 in Missouri, apparently on the condition that he would not be extradited to Northfield, Minnesota. Frank was tried for two robberies in Missouri, but convicted of neither.

The Younger brothers served time in a Minnesota prison, but never assisted the prosecution of Frank James. Bob Younger died of tuberculosis in jail, but in 1901, Cole and Jim Younger were paroled on the condition they remained in Minnesota. Jim Younger shot himself in 1902. A year later, Cole Younger was pardoned on the condition that he never return to Minnesota. He went home to Missouri and joined a 'Wild West' show with Frank James.

This was a different age: the Gilded Age of fantastic fortunes and populist politicians. Jesse James was remembered as a Robin Hood, an ordinary man who had stood up against powerful corporations, rather than the killer who had donned a Ku Klux Klan hood - and not just as a disguise. Jesse James robbed the rich - the banks and the railroads - but without feeding the poor. If he was loyal to his family and friends, he was also a habitual thief and killer.



Sioux warriors mount a countercharge  
against the cavalry of General George Crook  
during the Battle of Rosebud



Nearly  
two thirds  
of the Sioux  
population remained  
on the reservation and  
did not take part in  
the war



# THE GREAT SIOUX WAR



~ 1876-1877 ~

During the 18-month Great Sioux War, the US Army fought Sioux and Cheyenne warriors for control of the Black Hills of South Dakota

**T**he longest of the wars between the US Army and the Native American tribes of the northern plains, the Great Sioux War of 1876 to 1877 ended with the subjugation of the majority of the Sioux and Cheyenne, restricting them to reservations and stripping away rights that had been guaranteed to them in earlier treaties. The Great Sioux War was one conflict within the ongoing Sioux Wars of 1854 to 1891.

In the spring of 1868, representatives of the United States government and the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho nations concluded the Treaty of Fort Laramie, ending the conflict known as Red Cloud's War and named for the great chief of the Oglala Sioux. Under Red Cloud's leadership, the Black Hills, sacred land to the Sioux, the Powder River Country, and vast hunting grounds in Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas were to remain with the tribes. The Great Sioux Reservation, essentially the western half

of what is today the state of South Dakota, was also established. Red Cloud had succeeded in holding off the ever-encroaching white settlers at bay - but only for a decade.

The continuing inexorable westward expansion of white settlers brought with it unavoidable conflict. By 1873, surveyors of the Northern Pacific Railroad moved into American Indian lands in violation of the Laramie Treaty. Prospectors, settlers and other interlopers ignored the treaty, and for a time the Army did its best to prevent violations of the agreement. The following year, an expedition under Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer was dispatched to the Black Hills to assess the situation, but before Custer returned to Fort Abraham Lincoln in the Dakota Territory, news of the discovery of gold in the Black Hills electrified the public.

By the spring of 1875, the gold rush into the Black Hills appeared unstoppable. Red Cloud, Lone Horn

and Spotted Tail, respected chiefs and leaders of the Native Americans, travelled to Washington DC, to discuss the many breaches of the Laramie Treaty and ask the administration of President Ulysses S Grant to honour the accord. Instead, they were offered a sum of just \$25,000 for the purchase of the sacred lands, provided they would agree to relocate to reservations far to the south in Oklahoma. Spotted Tail was incredulous and responded, "You speak of another country, but it is not my country. It does not concern me, and I want nothing to do with it. I was not born there... If it is such a good country, you ought to send the white men now in our country there and let us alone."

Storm clouds were brewing as the more militant factions of the Sioux and Cheyenne under Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, who had refused to recognise the Laramie Treaty from the beginning, were preparing to fight. In November, President Grant



met with General Phil Sheridan and General George Crook, commanders of the military Divisions of the Missouri and the Platte, to plan a new course of action. Those attending agreed that it was impossible to prevent further encroachment into Native lands. There was little alternative short of coercion to bring the Native Americans to heel. As a pretext for initiating a military campaign against those who refused to return to their reservation and join in negotiations, the government established a deadline of 31 January 1876, for compliance.

While most of the Native Americans were already cooperating with the government, there remained approximately 7,000 Sioux, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho at large, including men, women, and children. Of these, perhaps only 2,500 to 3,000 were warriors. As expected, there was little response to the government

ultimatum. The deadline eventually passed, and the US Army began to take action.

Although periodic skirmishes were nothing new - the Army had destroyed numerous Northern Cheyenne encampments since 1875 - the Great Sioux War was intended to settle the question of land ownership and the future of the Native American tribes once and for all. On 8 February 1876, General Sheridan ordered an offensive to begin.

Six weeks after Sheridan's directive, General Crook sent Colonel Joseph J Reynolds and six companies

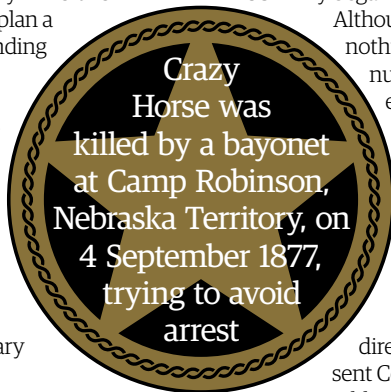
of the 2nd and 3rd Cavalry Regiments, 400 troopers strong, in the first of nine separate forays against the Natives. On 17 March, Reynolds struck a Northern Cheyenne settlement of approximately 65 lodges on the Powder River in southeastern Montana. Mistaking them for Sioux, Reynolds attacked at first light. After burning the village, the cavalrymen were quickly forced to retreat as

a strong counterattack inflicted numerous casualties. Reynolds was later court-martialed for his apparently inept command during the fight, which left several dead and wounded troopers on the field.

In the early spring, a three-pronged operation began with Crook leading a column north from Fort Fetterman in the Dakota Territory while a second force under Colonel John Gibbon struck out from Fort Ellis in the Montana Territory, and General Alfred Terry left Fort Abraham Lincoln with a large contingent of troopers, including the entire 7th Cavalry Regiment under Custer. If successful, their manoeuvres would trap the Natives between their converging columns. On 17 June, Crook engaged a larger force of Sioux and

Northern Cheyenne under Crazy Horse along Rosebud Creek in Montana. The six-hour battle left approximately 60 cavalrymen and as many as 100 Natives dead or wounded. Crook was stopped cold. Meanwhile, Terry detached Custer to scout the valleys of the Rosebud and the Bighorn River. On 25 June, Custer came to grief at the Little Bighorn, overwhelmed by a force of Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho in what came to be known as his much-documented "Last Stand".

Stunned by the shocking defeat at the Little Bighorn, Crook advanced once again a few days later, briefly joining forces with the remainder of Terry's command. No appreciable contact was made with the Natives, and Crook turned south in search of provisions. As autumn closed in, Crook's fruitless foray became known as the 'Horsemeat March'. His cavalrymen were forced to kill and eat their spent mounts. On 9 September, he happened upon a small camp of Sioux and Cheyenne at Slim



General George Crook's headquarters somewhere along the trail of the Horsemeat March is indicative of the soldiers' privations. Above: Fort Laramie, Wyoming, was the scene of the treaty signing in 1868 that failed to bring peace to northern plains



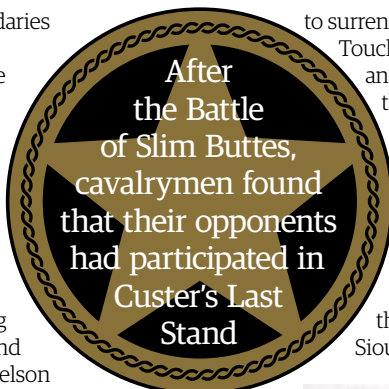
The last major conflict with the Sioux was the Ghost Dance War



Buttes, within the boundaries of the Sioux reservation. After pillaging the village and burning the lodges, Crook's troopers killed a number of Natives and compelled the survivors to surrender. Meanwhile, Sitting Bull's loyal warriors raided wagon trains filled with supplies along the Yellowstone River, and cavalry under Colonel Nelson Miles gave chase but failed to corner the marauders. By the end of October, though, several hundred Natives had surrendered alongside the riverbank.

Days earlier Colonel Ranald Mackenzie had led the 4th Cavalry Regiment out of Camp Robinson in the Nebraska Territory. On 25 November, the horse soldiers destroyed a large Northern Cheyenne village and defeated a band of warriors led by Dull Knife and Little Wolf at the Battle on the Red Fork in Wyoming. In early December, Lieutenant Frank Baldwin and a contingent of cavalry caught the tail of Sitting Bull's weakening column as it crossed the Missouri River, fighting a brief engagement. Soon, Sitting Bull led his people north across the Canadian frontier.

With the prospect of a hard winter looming, Colonel Miles advanced to the valley of the Tongue River in Montana, establishing a post that later became Fort Keogh. On 8 January 1877, Miles tangled with Crazy Horse in the Battle of Wolf Mountain. After several hours of fighting, Crazy Horse withdrew and the battle ended in a tactical draw. A wave of surrender overtures followed as several delegations of Sioux and Cheyenne left their reservations temporarily and convinced some groups of Natives

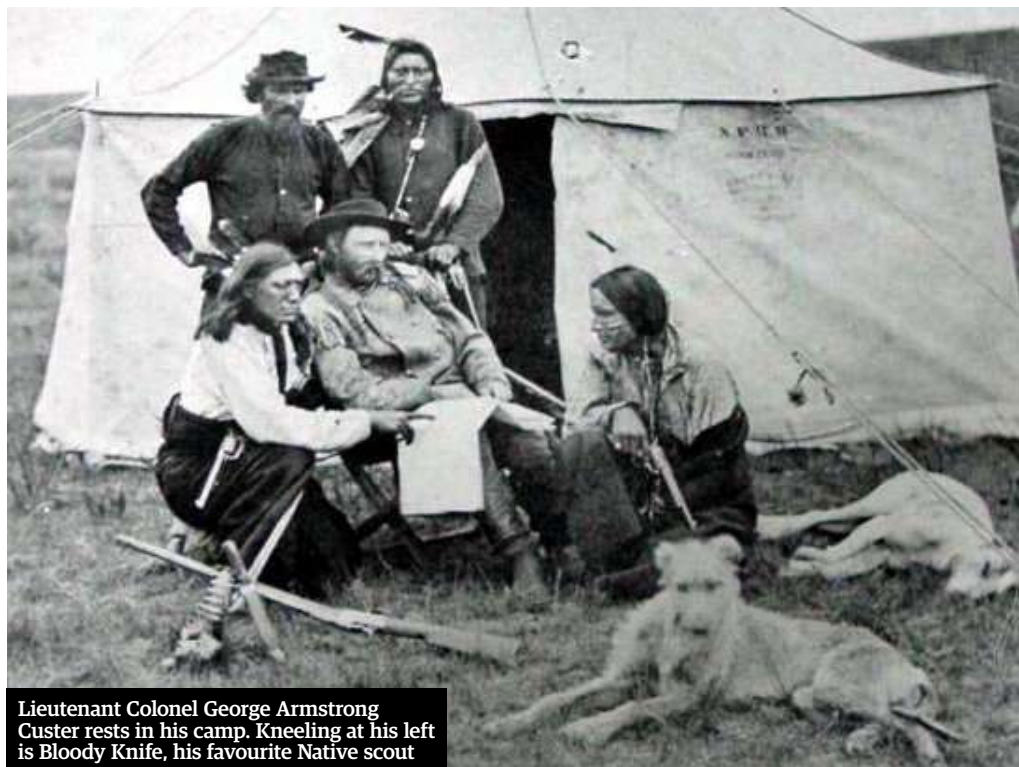


to surrender. Within days, followers of Crazy Horse, Touch The Clouds, Roman Nose, Dull Knife and Standing Elk began to filter away from their camps and toward the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies in the Nebraska Territory. The agencies were depots constructed for the distribution of food, clothing, and other essentials under the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty.

A diehard band of Sioux led by Lamé Deer continued to resist, and the last major engagement of the Great Sioux War occurred on 7 May at the Battle

of Little Muddy Creek. Miles attacked the Indian encampment in the early morning, and an attempt to negotiate surrender terms deteriorated quickly into a close-quarters fight. Lamé Deer was killed along with up to 13 other Natives and four soldiers. For three more months, the cavalrymen chased down stragglers and holdouts. With a skirmish along the Little Missouri River on 4 July 1877, the war finally sputtered to a close.

Stirrings against the white man's breaches of its treaties never completely subsided; however, the Native Americans of the northern plains saw their way of life change forever.



Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer rests in his camp. Kneeling at his left is Bloody Knife, his favourite Native scout



## Sioux Leader Red Cloud

Although he is remembered often as a chief, Red Cloud had no formal claim to the title. However, he earned the respect of his people and of his adversaries. Born in the Nebraska Territory near the forks of the Platte River in 1822, he was raised in the home of his maternal uncle, Old Chief Smoke. As a young man, Red Cloud gained notoriety as a brave warrior in combat against the rival Crow, Shoshone, Ute and Pawnee tribes.

In 1865, the US Army began to build a string of forts along the Bozeman Trail through Sioux lands in the Wyoming and Montana Territories. Alarmed by the threat of white settlement, Red Cloud staged a series of raids against the forts. In December 1866, he led an allied force of Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors that massacred 80 soldiers and civilian scouts under Captain William Fetterman near Fort Phil Kearny, Wyoming. The so-called Red Cloud's War was the most successful war fought by Native Americans against the US Army. When the conflict ended in 1868, the Fort Laramie Treaty gained concessions for the Native Americans. Red Cloud remained a controversial spokesman for his people and died at the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1909.



Red Cloud chose not to join the Native Americans who fought the US Army during the Great Sioux War





# SITTING BULL

A Sioux chief and spiritual leader determined to protect traditional ways of life

**A**fter two days of fierce fighting near the Little Bighorn River on the plains of eastern Montana in 1876, 600 men led by George Armstrong Custer were defeated by a alliance of 3,000 warriors from Native American tribes. Custer himself was killed, as were two of his brothers, a nephew and a brother-in-law. The total US casualty count was 268 dead and 55 injured. For Lakota chief Sitting Bull, this was a great victory in the violent and desperate struggle for the Sioux tribes' survival on the North American Great Plains. It was also the realisation of a vision the medicine man had experienced at a ceremony not three months earlier.

Throughout the 19th century, native Sioux tribes had been pushed further and further west as white settlers expanded into the American heartland from the colonies on the eastern seaboard. The Great Sioux wars of the 1870s culminated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, where Custer's infamous last stand took place. The natives saw the battle as their last chance to save their homelands and they fought with desperation and determination. "The whites want a war and we will give it to them," said Sitting Bull. After decades of seeing tribes lose their ancestral land to white men and being forced to live on government-controlled reservations, the tribes united in their struggle for survival under the

leadership of Sitting Bull, who remained defiant toward American military power and contemptuous of US Government promises.

Born on the Grand River in present-day South Dakota, Sitting Bull was originally named Slow by his chieftain father because he was always very careful and slow to take action as a young child. Slow grew up as a typical child in the Lakota Sioux tribe. He learned how to ride horses, shoot with a bow and hunt buffalo, and he dreamt of one day becoming a great warrior. A scout who met Sitting Bull when he was still a boy described him in a later account as "a boy of rather stocky appearance, not 'straight as an arrow' like the traditional Indian. He was fearless under all circumstances, a magnificent rider, an accurate shot and capable of enduring an extraordinary amount of fatigue."

At 14, Slow joined his first war party, taking part in a battle against the Crow tribe, where he bravely charged a warrior and knocked him down. When the party returned to camp, Slow's father gave him the name Sitting Bull in honour of his bravery. It was a title he would live up to throughout his life.

Because his tribe lived and hunted north of the early routes of western travel, Sitting Bull had little contact with white men until the 1862 Santee Sioux uprising, an armed conflict between the US and several bands of the eastern Sioux. The defeated





Sitting Bull was regarded as a spiritual leader whose visions gave him sacred powers







Native Americans were rounded up in reservations by the American government

## What he was fighting against

### Indian reservations

Toward the end of the 19th century, following decades of westward expansion, the US signed treaties with surrendering Native Americans or conquered those who resisted encroachment into their homelands. In exchange for large tracts of land and the valuable natural resources they contained, the government agreed to provide reservations, off-limits to new white settlers.

### The end of traditions

Beside the moral problem of depriving a people of life on their historic land, many issues plagued the reservations. Nomadic tribes, now confined, lost their means of subsistence. Farmers found themselves with land unsuitable for agriculture and hostile tribes were often forced into the same areas. The results were disastrous.

### Driven to war

After treaties were made with the Plains Indians in 1861, white miners were able to cross the Great Plains by using the Bozeman Trail, with the US Army building forts along the trail to protect them. The trail ran through the Sioux' buffalo hunting grounds, making their traditional way of life almost impossible. The Sioux responded with war.

### Loss of more land

In 1887, the Dawes General Allotment Act was passed. It tried to weaken traditional bonds of Indian society by making land ownership private rather than shared. The government broke up reservation land and distributed it to individuals, selling the remainder. It reduced the remaining Native American-controlled land by about two-thirds.

### Battle of Wounded Knee

When Sioux tribes protested, the US Army shot and killed at least 150 near Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota in 1890. Because of this massacre, The Ghost Dance, a religious movement prophesying the return of buffalo herds and disappearance of the settlers, gradually died out.

Sioux were driven west to the plains where Sitting Bull, now a chief himself, heard what life was like on a government-controlled reservation, and began to understand that pacts with white men rarely lasted. Desperate for his people to retain their culture, traditions and sacred lands, Sitting Bull resolved to keep his tribe away from the white man's world and never to sign a treaty that would force them to live on a reservation.

Sitting Bull's disdain for treaties and reservation life soon attracted a large following, not only from the Sioux but from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes as well. Widely respected for his bravery and insight, he became head chief of the Lakota nation from around 1868. In early encounters with US soldiers encroaching on native territory, Sitting Bull learned their ways of fighting, strengths and weaknesses. He combined this analytical approach with raw courage. Once, during a battle with soldiers protecting railroad workers on the Yellowstone River, Sitting Bull led four other warriors out between the lines, sat calmly sharing a pipe with them as bullets buzzed around, before casually walking away.

However, the relative peace and tentative expansion of territory by white settlers was shattered in 1874 when gold was discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota, an area sacred to many tribes and placed off-limits to white settlement by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. Prospectors eager to make their fortune rushed to the Black Hills in spite of the treaty, provoking the Lakota to defend their sacred land. The US ordered all Sioux that lived outside the Indian Reservation to move inside it. Sitting Bull refused, saying that reservations were like prisons and he would not be "shut up in a corral."

As the US forces began to hunt down the Sioux, Sitting Bull formed a war camp. In 1876, as three columns of federal troops moved into the area the chief summoned the Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes to his camp on Rosebud Creek in Montana Territory. There he led them in the sun dance ritual, offering prayers to Wakan Tanka, their

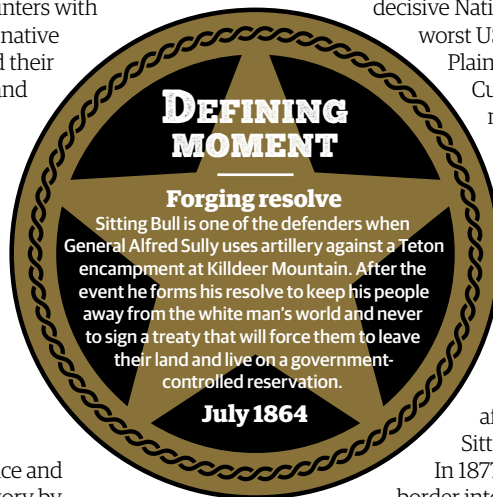
Great Spirit, and slashing his arms 100 times as a sign of sacrifice. During this ceremony, he had a vision in which he saw soldiers falling into the Lakota camp like grasshoppers falling from the sky; the prophecy would become a reality at the Little Bighorn River three months later.

Having moved their encampment to the Little Bighorn and gained the support of more warriors, the tribes were attacked on 25 June by the 7th Cavalry under Custer, whose badly outnumbered troops first rushed the encampment, as if in fulfillment of Sitting Bull's vision, and then made a last doomed stand on a nearby ridge, where they were destroyed. The event marked the most decisive Native American victory and the

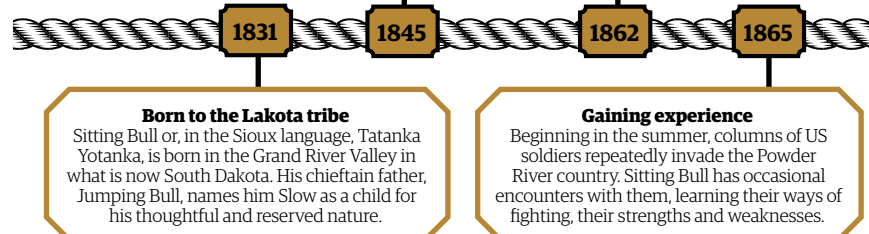
worst US Army defeat in the long Plains Indian War. The demise of Custer and his men outraged many white Americans and confirmed to them their image of the Indians as their enemy. The US government increased its efforts to subdue the tribes and sent thousands more cavalrymen to the area. Over the next year, they relentlessly pursued the Lakota, forcing chief after chief to surrender. But Sitting Bull remained defiant.

In 1877 he led his band across the border into Canada, beyond the reach of the US Army, and when he was offered a pardon in exchange for settling on a reservation, Sitting Bull angrily refused.

However, living in a land without buffalo was almost impossible, and finding it difficult to feed his people, Sitting Bull finally came south to surrender after four long years. He was sent to Standing Rock Reservation, and when his reception there raised fears that he might inspire a fresh uprising, was sent further down the Missouri River to Fort Randall, where he and his followers were held for nearly two years as prisoners of war. Finally, in 1883, Sitting Bull rejoined his tribe at Standing Rock Reservation. Those in charge were determined to deny the great chief any special privileges, even forcing him to work in the fields, hoe in hand. But Sitting Bull still knew his own authority, and when a delegation of US senators came to discuss opening part of the



## Timeline







Sitting Bull photographed in 1885

Sitting Bull "as mild mannered a man as ever cut a throat or scalped a helpless woman." He stayed only four months with Buffalo Bill's travelling roadshow, unable to tolerate white society or the damage to his pride any longer.

Returning to Standing Rock, he lived in a cabin on the Grand River, near his birthplace. Soon after his return, he had another mystical vision. This time he saw a meadowlark alight on a hillock beside him and heard it say, "Your own people, Lakotas, will kill you."

In the autumn of 1890, a Lakota named Kicking Bear came to Sitting Bull with news of the Ghost Dance, a ceremony that promised to rid the land of white people. Lakota had already adopted the ceremony at the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations, and Indian agents there had called for troops to bring the growing movement under control. At Standing Rock, the authorities feared that Sitting Bull, revered as a spiritual leader, would join the Ghost Dancers and so sent 43 Lakota policemen to bring him in. Before dawn on 15 December 1890, the policemen burst into Sitting Bull's cabin and dragged him outside, where his followers were gathering to protect him. In the ensuing gunfight, one of the Lakota policemen put a bullet through Sitting Bull's head.

Chief Sitting Bull is remembered among the Lakota not only as an inspirational leader but also as a loving father, a gifted singer, a man always affable and friendly toward others and whose deep religious faith gave him prophetic insight and lent special power to his prayers. He inherited from his father the chieftainship of a part of the Sioux tribe, but his remarkable ascendancy over other tribes was thanks to his spiritual leadership, his talents as a politician and an unshakable determination to preserve his people's way of life.

## DEFINING MOMENT

### Battle of the Little Bighorn

Determined to resist US efforts to force them onto reservations, Natives under the leadership of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse wipe out Lieutenant Colonel George Custer and much of his 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. It is the Natives' greatest victory and the army's worst defeat in the long and bloody Plains Indian War.

June 1876

reservation to white settlers, he spoke forcefully, though in vain, against their plan.

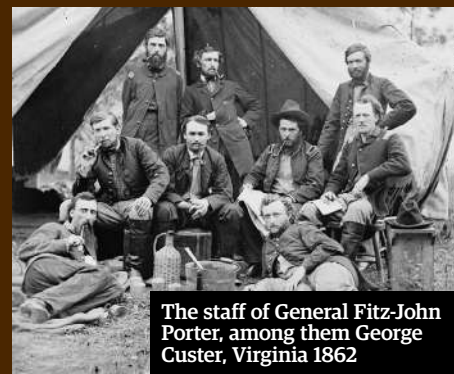
Two years later, Sitting Bull was allowed to leave the reservation to join Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, earning \$50 a week for riding once around the arena, in addition to whatever he could charge for his autograph and picture. During his stint on the show, he met President Grover Cleveland as well as the famous sharpshooter Annie Oakley, who said the Sioux warrior "made a great pet of me." However, life on the road was unpleasant with crowds often hissing, while the newspapers termed

## The defeat of General Custer

Lieutenant Colonel George Custer is remembered for his infamous 'last stand' along the Little Bighorn River. Born in Ohio in 1839, Custer graduated at the bottom of his military academy class and was court-martialled for not obeying his duties as an officer of the guard. With the Civil War raging, though, he was not punished. Custer proved himself a worthy officer in that brutal war and, aged just 23, was the youngest officer ever to make the rank of General. However, after the war he was stripped of his commission.

Having enlisted in the regular Army in 1866, Custer only strengthened his reputation for not following orders. In 1868, he led an attack on a band of Southern Cheyenne, even though the tribe had given in to the demands of the US government and were flying the white flag of truce on the morning of Custer's attack.

In 1876, Custer was sent to lead a force to defeat Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne warriors. On 25 June, Custer's scouts told him that a gigantic village lay in the valley of the Little Bighorn River. Dismissing the scouts' claim that the settlement was extraordinarily large as exaggerated, Custer split his force in order to attack the encampment from two sides. However, he had miscalculated the number of enemy soldiers and the depth of the river he had to cross. It took less than an hour for the Native Americans' arrows and bullets to wipe out General Custer and his men.



The staff of General Fitz-John Porter, among them George Custer, Virginia 1862

### Plains gold rush

Gold is discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The US wants access to the gold without interference from Natives. They order all Sioux living outside the Sioux Reservation to move inside it. Sitting Bull refuses.

1868

1874

### Increasing influence

Another Lakota leader, Red Cloud, signs the Fort Laramie Treaty, and then agrees to lead his people to life on a reservation. In the aftermath, Red Cloud's influence wanes and Sitting Bull's grows in turn.



### Living on a reservation

Sitting Bull is permitted to live on Standing Rock Reservation, where he continues to use his influence among the Native Americans to attempt to keep Sioux lands from being taken by the government.

1881

1883

### Return and surrender

Having fled over the border to Canada after the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1877, Sitting Bull surrenders to the US and is held as a prisoner of war for a time at Fort Randall in South Dakota Territory.

### Death of a leader

A US Indian agent at Fort Yates fears the Lakota leader will flee the reservation. Eight policemen and seven of Sitting Bull's supporters are killed in an ensuing fight, along with the great man himself.

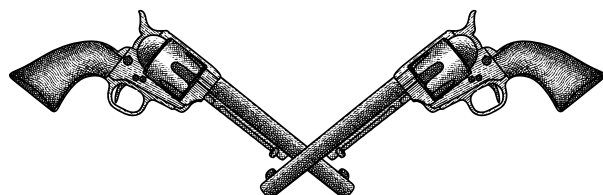
1885

1890

### Travelling show

Sitting Bull travels for a season with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show. However, he can only tolerate white company for a few months, due to their hostile behaviour towards him, and returns to the reservation.





# THE HUNT FOR BILLY THE KID

It's the iconic Wild West story and thus, in the 150 years since its making, it has become fraught with embellishment and myth. What was the real history of the hunt that made the legendary lawman Pat Garrett?

**B**y the late 19th century, cartographers had mapped much of the world, and the globe, almost as we know it today, was a well-established fact. To the east, the Victorian Empire had peaked despite being ousted from its interests in the New World colonies a century earlier, and the decades that followed Independence Day had seen a fledgling United States simmer with civil war and lawlessness. In the wake of the British, the new American government had made vast territorial gains, picking up the entire Louisiana region - a huge swathe of grasslands over a million square kilometres - from France's Napoleon Bonaparte for a snip, at just \$15 million. Border disputes and infighting followed, but that did not halt the USA's progress from the Great Plains to the coastline of the Golden State.

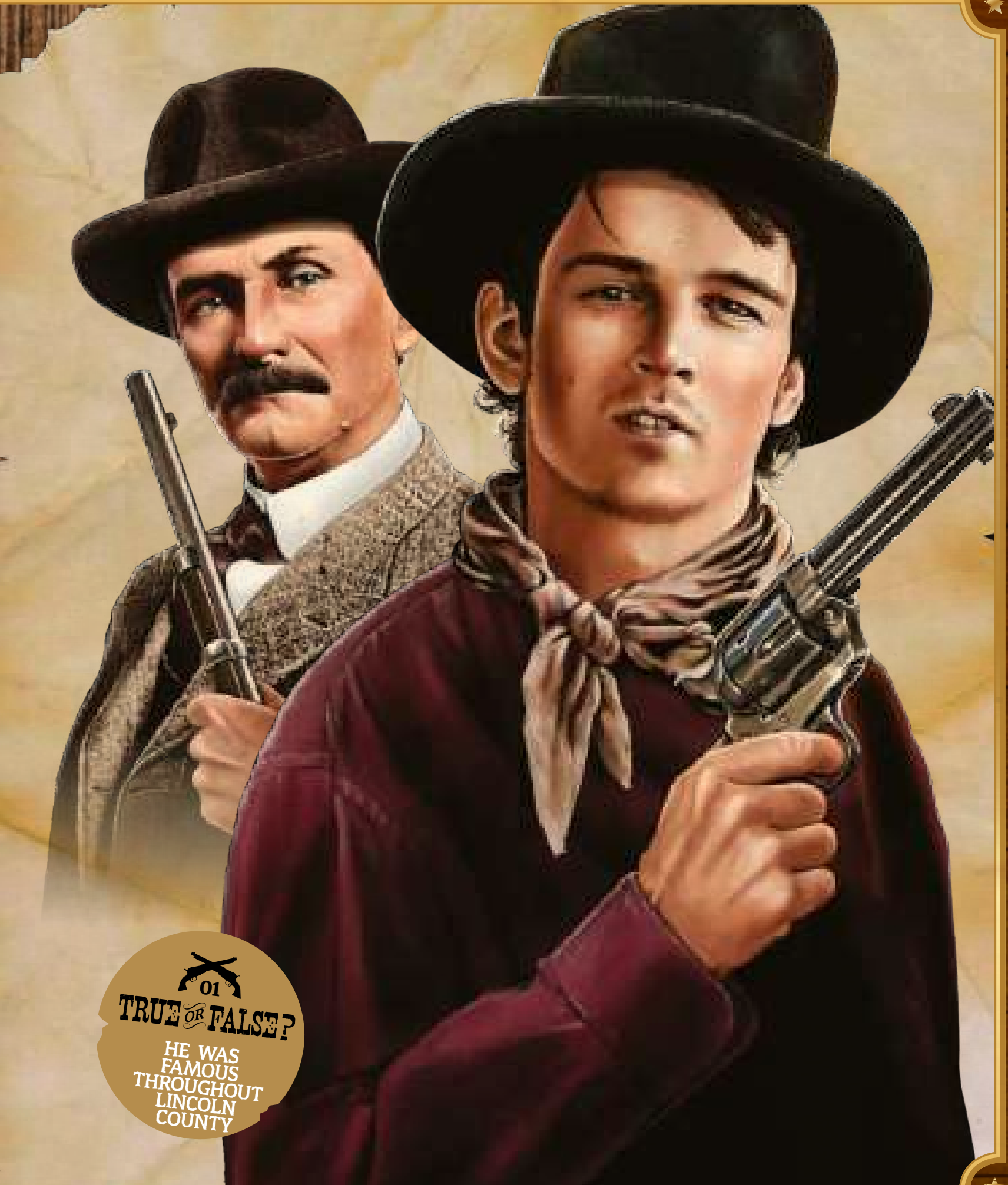
The boundary of this new nation had spilled westward too rapidly for any population to fill, let alone for the lawmakers of the White House to control. The West was true frontier territory, its people as feral and keen as its unrelenting climate,

no place for the fragile. This crucible forged two characters, the outlaw Billy the Kid and sheriff Patrick Floyd Garrett: their independent life stories alone have resonated through generations, but it is Pat's pursuit and the ultimate death of the Kid that has defined them both.

Hollywood has traditionally presented an extremely romanticised notion of this era, so while the stereotypes of sheriff, outlaw, saloon owner, settler, Mexican, cowboy and their ilk can usually be taken with a mere pinch of salt, the black and white morality of the Silver Screen is laughably far from the truth. There was often little to separate lawman from lawless but a small steel star, so we're going to rub away the sepia and journey to New Mexico in late 1880, where Pat Garrett has just been appointed the sheriff of Lincoln County.

Garrett was an imposing six feet three inches of lean gunman and a known deadeye shot. Coupled with his imposing figure and reputation, he made a first-class choice for a visiting detective in the employ of the Treasury Department, Azariah Wild,





**TRUE OR FALSE?**

HE WAS  
FAMOUS  
THROUGHOUT  
LINCOLN  
COUNTY





The shooting of Billy the Kid solidified Garrett's fame as a lawman and gunman



to help track down the source of \$30,000 worth of counterfeit greenbacks that were circulating the county. Garrett himself employed another man - Barney Mason - to bait the two suspected of distributing this currency: ranch owner Dan Dedrick and another, WH West, who had made himself and their intentions clear in a letter that Mason had intercepted. Those intentions were that they would launder the money by buying cattle in Mexico as fast as they could with an assistant, who would unwittingly take the hit in the event that their ruse was discovered. Mason was to be the fall guy. Now that they had the advantage, Garrett instructed Mason to travel to the White Oaks ranch and play along with their nefarious plans.

In the brisk New Mexico winter, Mason rode out to Dedrick's. There, he ran into three gunslingers on the run from the authorities: Dave Rudabaugh, who had killed a Las Vegas jailer during a break-out; Billy Wilson, another murderer yet to be caught; and the last was none other than Billy the Kid - the unlawful killer who had busted himself out of jail once already, made a living by cattle rustling and gambling, surrounded himself with like-minded outlaws and whose reputation was on the cusp of snowballing towards near mythological status. The attitude

of the era was such that a lawman and a wanted man could be trading campfire stories one day, then bullets the next. The Kid and Garrett (who ran his own saloon) were once thought to have gambled together, and Mason was also known to these three - he was, in fact, on friendly terms with them. Thus, both parties made their pleasantries then entered a game of high-stakes mind games, whereby the Kid attempted to ferret out the true nature of Mason's visit (suspecting he had come to ascertain his location and then report to the sheriff) while Mason threw the Kid a red herring, stating that he was there to take in some horses. The Kid didn't buy this ruse. Smelling a rat, he met with Dedrick and his fellow outlaws with the intention of killing Mason, but Dedrick feared the repercussions would ruin his illicit plans, so the Kid relaxed his proverbial itchy trigger finger.

A local posse on the hunt for Billy had been raised and the town of White Oaks was agitated with the news that the outlaw was in the area. The heat was too much for Mason to follow through with his orders without raising suspicion, so he lay low for a few days before returning to report at Garrett's place in Roswell. Shortly after, Garrett received a letter from Roswell Prison's Captain Lea, detailing the criminal activities of the Kid and his companions in the area. Garrett

02  
TRUE OR FALSE?  
HE SURVIVED  
THE SHOOTOUT  
WITH PAT  
GARRETT

The Kid rode for a time with the gang of cattle rustlers known as the Jesse Evans Gang







was commissioned as a United States marshal and given a warrant for the arrest of Henry McCarty, aka William H Bonney, aka Billy the Kid, on the charge of murder. The hunt was on. The Kid's days were numbered and on 27 November 1880, the curtain was lifted on one history's most famous Wild West drama.

The new marshal already had a reputation and might have put the fear of God into the common criminal, but he was no fool. The Kid was by now a true desperado, one who had cut his teeth in the revenge killings of the Lincoln County War, and he was more likely to go out in a blaze of glory than he was to lay down his arms and come quietly. Garrett had raised a posse of about a dozen men from the citizens of Roswell and made his way to Fort Sumner to pick up the outlaws' trail, which would lead them to his suspected hideout at Los Portales. The many miles of desert scrub and overgrown track were neither an easy nor uneventful ride, and saw a Kid associate named Tom Foliard flee the posse in a hail of bullets. When the 'hideout' at Los Portales - a hole in a cliff face with a fresh water spring - turned up nothing more than a few head of cattle, the posse fed and watered themselves before returning to Fort Sumner, where Garrett dismissed them. It was not the showdown he had hoped for, but Garrett wasn't the quitting kind.

Over the next few days, Garrett, accompanied by Mason, encountered Sheriff

The Kid is thought to have killed his first victim a few months before his 18th birthday



03  
**TRUE OR FALSE?**  
HE WAS LEFT-HANDED

## The Wild West in numbers

The times were hard, but surprisingly, the crimes were nowhere near as bad as they are in the western United States today

**3 murders** | **\$5-10 million**

The highest annual body count for Tombstone, Arizona, happened in 1881, the same year as Wyatt Earp's famous gunfight at the OK Corral

The biggest value stagecoach shipments in today's equivalent - usually gold bullion

**6**



The number of bank robberies across 15 states from 1859 to 1900. There weren't many banks and with no cars, it was a lot harder to get away with it back then

**45**

The number of murders from 1870-85 in five Kansas towns, a lower per capita than today



Billy the Kid's hanging date set by Lincoln county courts

**28**

The number of times the outlaw Black Bart robbed stagecoaches in California, making thousands of dollars a year





# FIREARM SHOWDOWN

For shootouts, showdowns, soldiers and civilians, these were the guns that won the West. The Kid and Garrett made darned sure their tools of the trade were the best



## Pat Garrett's Sharps rifle

USA 1850-81

- » DESIGNERS: CHRISTIAN SHARPS
- » MANUFACTURER: SHARPS RIFLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY
- » NUMBER PRODUCED: 120,000+
- » EFFECTIVE RANGE: 460M
- » WEIGHT: 4.3KG
- » CALIBRE: .52
- » FEED SYSTEM: 1 ROUND
- » ACTION: FALLING BLOCK, BREECH LOADING
- » ADVANTAGES: VERSATILE
- » DISADVANTAGES: WASTEFUL, EXPENSIVE
- » POPULAR USES: MILITARY, HUNTING, SPORT

## Pat Garrett's Frontier Colt

USA 1878-1907

- » DESIGNERS: WILLIAM MASON
- » MANUFACTURER: COLT'S PATENT FIREARMS MANUFACTURING COMPANY
- » NUMBER PRODUCED: 51,210
- » MUZZLE VELOCITY: 253 M/S
- » WEIGHT: 1,048G
- » CALIBRE: .44-40 WINCHESTER
- » FEED SYSTEM: CYLINDER MAGAZINE
- » ACTION: DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVER
- » ADVANTAGES: INTERCHANGEABLE AMMUNITION WITH RIFLE, GOOD STOPPING POWER
- » DISADVANTAGES: NONE
- » POPULAR USES: CIVILIAN, SHERIFF

04  
TRUE OR FALSE?

HE KILLED 21 MEN, ONE FOR EACH YEAR OF HIS LIFE

Romero leading a posse of swaggering Mexicans to Puerto de Luna, shot and wounded a known felon named Mariano Leiva, talked his way out of Romero and his posse's misguided attempts to arrest him for this shooting and then learned of another party - led by an agent for the Panhandle stockmen the Kid had rustled cattle from - who was also hot on the trail of the Kid. Nerves of steel, a steady hand, sharp wit and no short measure of luck had eventually seen Garrett true once again.

Garrett met with Panhandle agent Frank Stewart at Las Vegas, the former Spanish colonial town of New Mexico and not the bright-light city-to-be more than 1,000 kilometres to the west. They left on 14 December to catch up with Stewart's party and broke the news to them:

some balked at the idea of an encounter with the Kid and his gang, but Stewart did not reproach any man who had reservations. "Do as you please boys, but there is no time to talk," he told them. "Those who are going with me, get ready at once. I want no man who hesitates." In the end, Stewart, Mason and Garrett added a further six men to their cause.

Ahead of the party, Garrett had sent a spy, a trustworthy man named Jose Roibal, who rode tirelessly to Fort Sumner to sniff the Kid out. Roibal performed his duty in a suitably subtle fashion and returned to meet Garrett with the news that the outlaw he sought was certainly at Fort Sumner, that he was on the lookout for Garrett and Mason, and that he was prepared to ambush them. The Kid had no idea that Garrett had company with him.

Following this, the posse made their way to an old hospital building on the eastern side of the town to await the return of the outlaws. The Kid arrived sooner than expected. A light snow carpeted the ground so that, despite the low light of the evening, it was still bright outside. Nevertheless, Garrett and company were able to position themselves around the building to their advantage. Outlaws Foliard and Pickett rode up front and were first to feel the sting of the posse's six-shooters, though whose bullets killed Foliard that day remains unknown. Garrett himself missed Pickett, who wheeled around and made for their ranch retreat along with the Kid, Bowdre, Wilson and Rudabaugh - the stagecoach robber and a particularly unsavoury character who the Kid admitted to being the only man he feared.

The marshal's posse regrouped and made preparations for the chase. There were just five





## Billy the Kid's 1873 Winchester rifle USA 1873-1919

- » **DESIGNERS:** BENJAMIN TYLER HENRY AND NELSON KING
- » **MANUFACTURER:** WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY
- » **NUMBER PRODUCED:** 720,000
- » **MUZZLE VELOCITY:** 335 M/S
- » **WEIGHT:** 4.3KG
- » **CALIBER:** .44-40 WINCHESTER
- » **FEED SYSTEM:** 15-ROUND TUBE MAGAZINE
- » **ACTION:** LEVER-ACTION
- » **ADVANTAGES:** INTERCHANGEABLE AMMUNITION WITH PISTOL, EASILY TRANSPORTED, ACCURATE
- » **DISADVANTAGES:** MAGAZINE FEEDING PROBLEMS
- » **POPULAR USES:** HUNTING, CIVILIAN

**05**  
**TRUE OR FALSE?**  
WILLIAM H  
BONNEY WAS  
NOT HIS REAL  
NAME

## Billy the Kid's Colt 1873 Single Action Army USA 1873-1941

- » **DESIGNERS:** WILLIAM MASON AND CHARLES BRINKERHOFF RICHARDS
- » **MANUFACTURER:** COLT'S PATENT FIREARMS MANUFACTURING COMPANY
- » **NUMBER PRODUCED:** 357,859
- » **MUZZLE VELOCITY:** 253 M/S
- » **WEIGHT:** 1.0486 (WITH BARREL)
- » **CALIBRE:** .45 COLT
- » **FEED SYSTEM:** 6-SHOT CYLINDER
- » **ACTION:** SINGLE-ACTION REVOLVER
- » **ADVANTAGES:** WELL BALANCED, SIMPLE TO USE, GOOD STOPPING POWER
- » **DISADVANTAGES:** DIFFICULT TO FIRE RAPIDLY
- » **POPULAR USES:** MILITARY, CIVILIAN MODEL

men to track now. Garrett had learned from another reliable local that they had holed up in an abandoned house near Stinking Springs, a piece of parched no-man's land where murky water bubbled up into a pool in a depression. It was a few hours before dawn that they made this short ride, which proved their new information true: horses were tied to the rafters outside the building. The Kid was cornered and furthermore, Garrett's approach had not been detected, so they still had the advantage of surprise. The posse split and spread out along the perimeter to play the waiting game in the darkness.

As day broke, one of the gang left the building via its only exit. In the half-light, he appeared to have the height, build and most importantly, was wearing the characteristic Stetson of Billy the Kid. Knowing the Kid would not give up easily, Garrett signalled to the posse, who peppered the

figure with bullets. Mortally wounded, Charley Bowdre stumbled back into the house, before the Kid pushed him back out with the words: "They have murdered you Charley, but you can still get revenge. Kill some of the sons of bitches before you die." But if the blood hadn't all leaked out of him by then, the fight certainly had, because Bowdre lurched towards the posse and collapsed before he could even get his hand to his pistol.

The jig was up for Garrett, but the Kid's gang was now down to four and their only exit was covered. Just to tip the scales further in his favour, Garrett shot one of the three horses dead to partially cover the exit and then shot the ropes on the other two, both of which promptly cantered away. The marshal felt he was in a position now, to parley: "How you fixed in there, Kid?"

"Pretty well," came the reply, "but we have no wood to get breakfast."

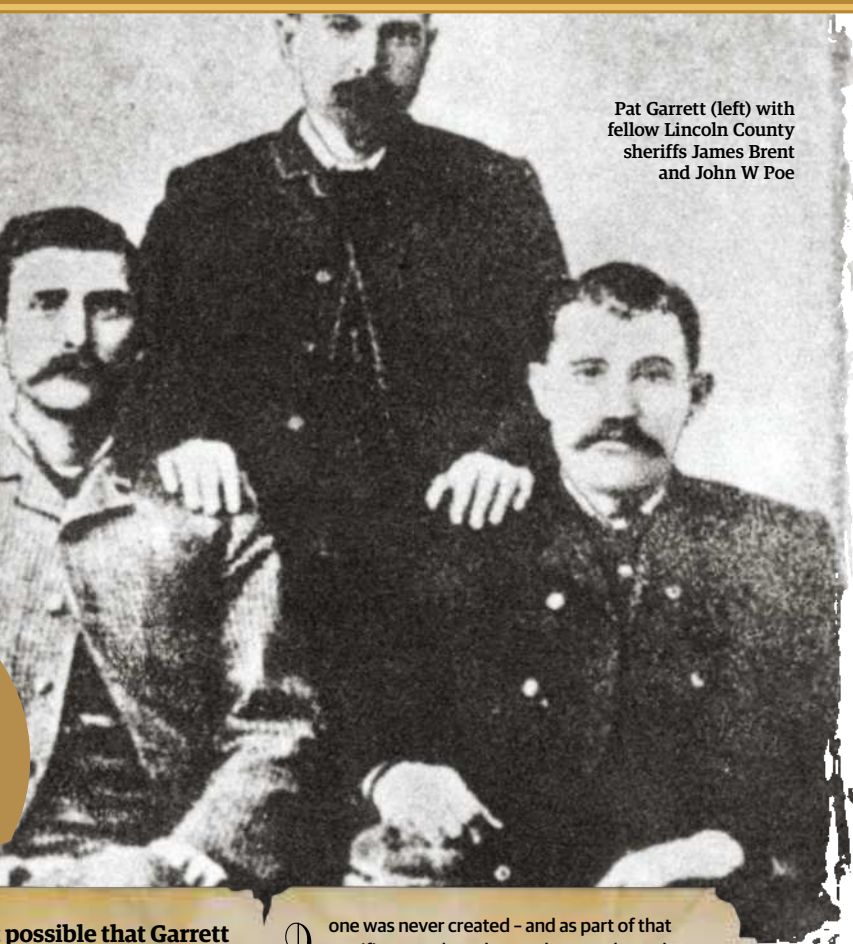
"Come out and get some. Be a little sociable."  
"Can't do it, Pat. Business is too confining. No time to run around."

An idea struck Garrett. Having rode through the pre-dawn and played the waiting game in the bitter cold, his men were likewise famished, so he sent for some provisions from Wilcox's ranch; a few hours later, a fire had been built. The sweet scent of roasting meat further weakened the outlaws' resolve until Rudabaugh dangled a filthy handkerchief out of a window in surrender. An eager foursome exited the house to collect the meal that had just cost them their freedom.

Garrett now had his man, but the Kid was as slippery as an eel. They survived a lynch mob at Las Vegas before the Kid was tried at Mesilla for the murder of Andrew 'Buckshot' Roberts. He was acquitted in March 1881, but was then found guilty of the murder of Sheriff William Brady







Pat Garrett (left) with fellow Lincoln County sheriffs James Brent and John W Poe

## EXPERT Q&A



### Robert Stahl

Robert is a historian, professor emeritus at Arizona State University and member of the Billy The Kid Outlaw Gang (BTKOG) – a non-profit organisation with aim of preserving the truth and promoting education in the history of Billy the Kid.

### Several theories counter the reports of the Kid's death with tales of his survival. Why do you think these tales persist today?

Number one is that a great many people who accept the 'survival' tale have not read the histories of the Kid's death by serious historians, so they are susceptible to entertaining stories about the Kid not being killed. Number two is the fact that many people cannot accept that it was mere coincidence that Garrett and the Kid were in Pete Maxwell's bedroom at the same time while believing the Kid was too smart or too fast on the draw to allow himself to be killed in the dark as he was. Number three is the fact that many documentaries – even those that include professional historians – bring up the rumours that the Kid was not killed as though these rumours have a touch of credibility.

### Is it possible that Garrett could have shot the wrong man in that darkened room?

The whole hamlet of more than 50 people saw the Kid's body once or more during the morning of his death, as his body was washed and clothed by local women and was on display in the saloon for part of the morning. It was also taken back to Pete Maxwell's bedroom and placed at or near the spot where the Kid fell. Not one of the individuals who were there ever said it was not the Kid. Indeed, all went to their graves, some over 50 years after the Kid's death, insisting they saw the Kid dead. Furthermore, six men who knew the Kid well both in person and on sight served on the coroner's jury, and all swore it was the Kid. So there is ample eyewitness support by numerous credible persons that Garrett did not kill the wrong man in that darkened room.

### You've been pursuing a death certificate from the New Mexico Supreme Court for the man known as 'Billy the Kid', for 15 July 1881. Why wasn't that originally issued? What would the reason be for the court not to create the certificate today?

My colleagues, Dr Nancy N Stahl and Marilyn Stahl Fischer, and I pursued a death certificate for the Kid because



William Henry Roberts claimed to be Billy the Kid after his death

one was never created – and as part of that certificate we have been adamant about the fact that it should include the Kid's actual death date of 15 July 1881 as opposed to the traditional date of 14 July. The coroner's jury report never stated a time or date of death, which was typical of the era in rural areas of the Old West. Furthermore, I have yet to find a violent death in New Mexico in the 1800s that was followed by a death certificate being created. The Supreme Court cannot 'create' a death certificate, but can order the state office that can to do its duty and create one. We went to the Supreme Court after months of trying to get the Office of the Medical Investigator to act. They refused to do their duties and then refused to get back to us. We had no other legal recourse in New Mexico other than to go to the Supreme Court. We supplied credible and substantial documentary evidence to the Supreme Court for them to act in our favour, but they have not issued the court order to the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator for them to act. We believe that the Supreme Court and the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator consider our efforts to be publicity stunts rather than a good faith request by three historians to correct the historical record.

### The BTKOG seeks to preserve and promote the truth about the Kid. Is there much in the way of rumour surrounding the legend you'd like to quash?

I do believe that important events in the current accepted stories of his escape from the Lincoln County Jail on 28 April need to be 'squashed', such as the notion that he picked up a gun in the privy when he went to relieve himself and that he intended all along to kill Bob Olinger. Another that needs to end immediately is the rumour that there was widespread belief that Garrett did not kill the 'real' Billy the Kid. Quite the contrary, for more than three decades after 1881 there were no stories – not even a hint of a rumour – printed in even one New Mexico newspaper that suggested the Kid was still alive. Indeed, at the time of his death in 1908, Garrett was well recognised throughout New Mexico and the nation as the man who killed Billy the Kid. Had there been any doubt, he would not have been acclaimed by everyone as the killer of the Kid.





## How the Kid met his maker

A blow-by-blow account of how Pat Garrett sent Billy the Kid to his grave



**23.55, 14 July 1881**

The Kid is in one of the run-down houses on Peter Maxwell's property when he decides he's hungry, grabs a knife and makes his way over to Maxwell's house to cut himself some beef.

**00.00, 15 July 1881**

Garrett has already entered the house himself and goes to the bedroom to speak to Maxwell to glean information on the whereabouts of the Kid. He sits on a chair near his pillow.

**00.04**

Garrett's companions are outside when the Kid passes them, but they have no idea what he looks like and this person speaks fluent Spanish to some nearby Mexicans, so they don't identify him.

**00.05**

The Kid enters the house. He is barefoot and not wearing his trademark hat. It's dark, so Garrett doesn't recognise him. Garrett stiffens as Maxwell whispers the identity of the man.

**00.05.05**

As the Kid approaches Maxwell, he makes out a second figure in the chair. Garrett pulls his gun and, almost simultaneously, the Kid goes for his own revolver, asking: "Quien es? Quien es?"

**00.05.06**

A heartbeat later, Garrett has pulled the trigger and thrown himself to the floor for another shot, but his aim was true. The Kid falls to the floor and barely has time to exhale before he is dead.

and sentenced to be hanged five weeks later on 13 May. Because there was no jail in Lincoln county, he was held in a two-storey repurposed warehouse watched by Deputy Sheriff Bell and Deputy Marshal Olinger, where the Kid made the most of a window of opportunity afforded to him by his lackadaisical wardens to steal a gun, kill his guards and make a spectacular escape.

Garrett was smarting when he realised his inadequate provision for the incarceration of the Kid and returned to Fort Sumner, where the Kid was believed to have fled, but the trail had once again gone cold. For the next two and a half months, Garrett would be kicking over stones well into the sweltering New Mexico summer before his final encounter with the fugitive.

In early July and in the company of Frank Stewart's replacement, John W Poe and Thomas K McKinney, who had been deputised, Garrett could be found a few miles north of Fort Sumner, adjusting his course according to hearsay and instinct. This took them to the home of Peter Maxwell where, near a row of dilapidated buildings, a slim man in a broad-rimmed hat could

be heard talking in Spanish to some Mexicans. They had found their man - but none of the trio recognised him from a distance. As it turned out, the Kid hadn't recognised them either. He slipped off the wall he was perched on and walked casually away to Maxwell's house.

After the stand-off at Stinking Springs and the Kid's dramatic escape from jail, his death seems anticlimactic: just after midnight on 15 July, Billy the Kid entered Peter Maxwell's house to pick up some beef for his supper. Garrett was in Pete's darkened bedroom quizzing him on the whereabouts of the Kid when the very man he was hunting stepped through the door. Pete whispered to Garrett his

identity and, leaving nothing to chance, Garrett took two shots, struck the Kid in his left breast and killed him.

In the memoirs he wrote shortly after the inquest that had discharged the marshal of his duty and deemed the homicide justifiable, Garrett dedicates no more than a short paragraph to the unfolding scene in the dark room. There was no classic showdown, the men weren't even aware of each other's presence until those final mortal seconds, and with his last words, it seems the Kid didn't even know who had sent him to meet his maker. In as much that the Kid's infamy began to spread during the long nothing periods of Garrett's hunt, when rumour of this rebellious young gunslinger and his long-legged lawman nemesis gestated into legend, his ignominious demise has, perhaps fittingly, been made much of by countless authors and Hollywood film-makers since.

**07**  
**TRUE OR FALSE?**  
**THE KID AND GARRETT WERE FRIENDS**

## The Answer

**01. FALSE**

He was just another nobody outlaw until his escape from Lincoln jail in April 1881 and it wasn't until the 1926 book *The Saga Of Billy The Kid* that the legend really took off.

**02. FALSE**

Several witnesses, including Garrett himself, testified to the death of the Kid that day.

**03. FALSE**

The only authenticated

photograph of him had been flipped, so his rifle was shown on the wrong side.

**04. FALSE**

The Kid is thought to have killed nine, five of those in shoot-outs.

**05. TRUE**

Billy the Kid was actually born as Henry McCarty and Bonney was just another alias.

**06. TRUE**

In the years following former colonial Mexico,

Spanish was as common as English.

**07. FALSE**

Although they did know of each other prior to Garrett's deputisation and bore each other no ill will.







# Wyatt Earp's WILD WEST

With his own and his family's lives threatened by a murderous band of outlaws, Wyatt Earp took the law into his own hands and formed a posse to track them down, becoming a hunted outlaw himself

**F**our gunshots splintered another dry and dusty night in Tombstone, Arizona. A man, wandering from the town's central Crystal Palace Saloon back to the Cosmopolitan Hotel, suddenly felt time slow to a crawl as his back and arm were lit up in a blaze of agonising pain. The contact of three loads of double-barrelled buckshot slammed into him like a runaway freight train. The force of the impact sent him crashing back into the side of the Crystal Palace, with excess shots peppering the saloon's walls and smashing through its windows. In excruciating pain, the fallen man stumbled toward the Cosmopolitan, blood dripping from him onto the baked earth. Drawing upon his last reserves of energy, he managed to reach the hotel's entrance and fall through its door - a moment later, everything was black. Across the street on the upper floor of an unfinished building, the assassins slipped away into the night.

The morning after, on 29 December 1881, Tombstone's Deputy Town Marshal Wyatt Earp sent a telegram that read: "Virgil Earp was shot by concealed assassins last night. His wounds are fatal. Telegraph me appointment with power to appoint deputies. Local authorities are doing nothing. The lives of other citizens are threatened. Wyatt Earp."

For weeks, Wyatt, his brothers and their friends had been receiving death threats for their role in the Shootout at the OK Corral, a gunfight that had seen a number of infamous outlaws taken out. The critical condition of his brother Virgil convinced Wyatt that everyone he knew and loved had been marked for death. Unfortunately, while the lawman knew those responsible he was powerless to act, with the sheriff of Tombstone, Johnny Behan, openly hostile to the Earps. Behan was close friends with William 'Curly Bill' Brocius whom Earp believed had his brother's blood on his hands.

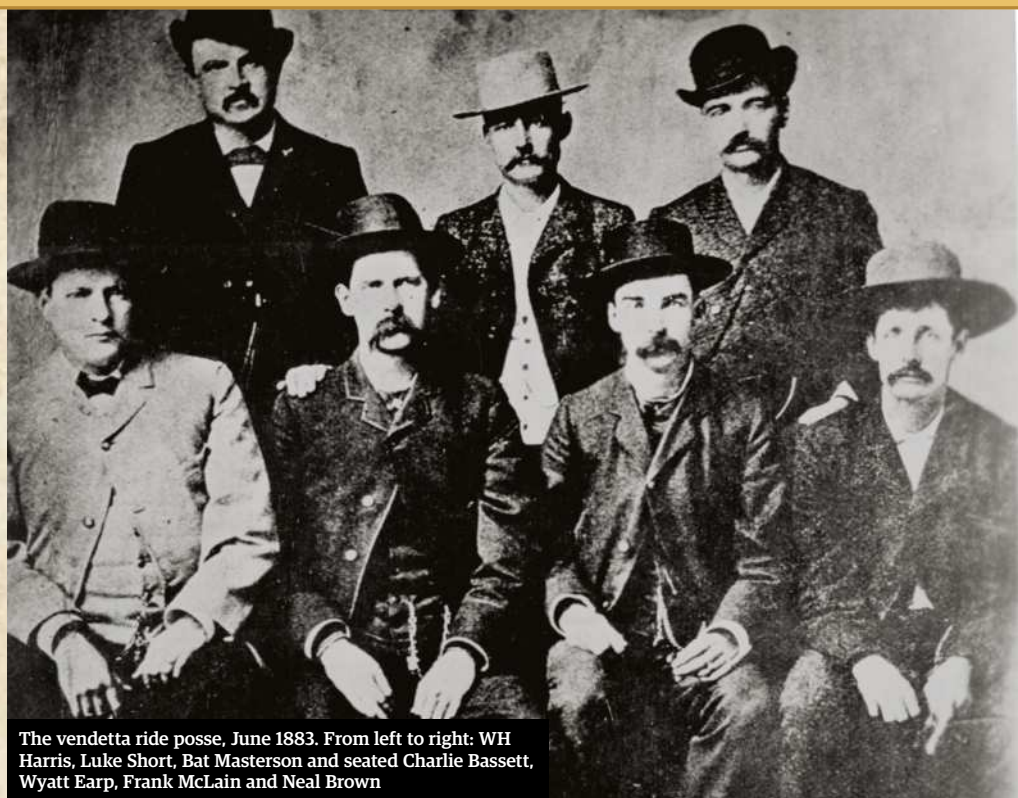
The tall, pale and serious-looking Wyatt, with his rough and gravelly voice, was going over the head of Behan to US Marshal Crawley P Dake, a man who had the authority to grant Wyatt deputising powers to assemble a posse capable of bringing the assassins to justice. The question was whether or not Dake would free his hands and if so, how quickly his confirmation would reach Tombstone. With the assassins still at large, the danger to all of the Earps and their friends was at a critical level. Luckily for Wyatt he soon received a return telegram. In it, Dake officially bestowed deputising powers on Wyatt and issued a mandate that he was free to pursue the assassins at his discretion.



Back at the Cosmopolitan, local doctor George E Goodfellow amazingly announced that Virgil would live, although his left arm would be permanently crippled. Upon finally waking from his coma and being told about his crippled arm, Virgil showed the characteristic Earp grit by telling his wife Allie: "Never mind, I've got one arm left to hug you with."

While relieved that his brother had survived, hatred for the assassins had begun to take hold of Wyatt, with him thinking of little other than revenge. He also knew who could help him get it. His old ally Doc Holliday would ride with him, as would his other brother Warren Earp, but for a job like this he needed ruthless professionals. As such, Sherman McMaster and Jack 'Turkey Creek' Johnson were first on his list; tough men who had what it takes to kill a man. Joining McMaster and Johnson would be Charles 'Hairlip Charlie' Smith and John 'Texas Jack' Vermillion - men who had checkered pasts but had experience of battle.

Three months passed after Virgil's shooting with no major activity. One of the Wild West's greatest lawmen hadn't been idle, though, as by 18 March 1882, he had his posse gathered in Tombstone while his brother Virgil was making his first tentative steps out of his sickbed. It seemed things were falling into place for Wyatt. He just needed to ensure his brother's safe passage out of Arizona and the vendetta ride could begin. However, his plans were shaken to their foundations as the very night Virgil started walking again, his younger brother Morgan was set upon at Tombstone's Campbell & Hatch Billiard Parlor. He was shot through the establishment's window, the bullet shattering his spine and sending him shuddering back into a billiard table. Wyatt rushed to the parlour where he was



The vendetta ride posse, June 1883. From left to right: WH Harris, Luke Short, Bat Masterson and seated Charlie Bassett, Wyatt Earp, Frank McLain and Neal Brown

"Drawing his .44 Schofield Smith & Wesson revolver from his holster, Wyatt carefully aimed for Stilwell's head and fired a single round"

## EARP'S VENDETTA POSSE



### JOHN 'DOC' HOLLIDAY

1851-1887

A trained dentist, professional gambler and sharpshooting gunfighter, Doc Holliday was one of Wyatt Earp's best and oldest friends, famously fighting with him at the Shootout at the OK Corral. By the time of his death five years after the vendetta ride, Holliday had survived eight gunfights, killed six men and wounded countless others.



### JOHN 'TEXAS JACK' VERMILLION

1842-1911

A close friend of Doc Holliday, Texas Jack was renowned throughout the Old West for his gunfighting abilities and ice cold demeanour when under fire. He played a key role in the closing Iron Springs gunfight of the vendetta ride, fighting fiercely and fearlessly even when his horse was shot dead from under him during the confrontation.



### DAN 'TIP' TIPTON

1844-1898

An experienced sailor and gambler, Dan Tipton was one of the people present when Wyatt Earp's brother Morgan was assassinated at the Campbell & Hatch Billiard Parlor in Tombstone, Arizona. He rode with Earp for the first part of the vendetta ride, witnessing the gunning down of outlaw Florentino Cruz at Pete Spence's woodcamp.





forced to listen as his brother slowly bled to death. The outlaws had gone after two of his brothers, injuring one and killing the other. Wyatt swore that those responsible would be brought to justice and that he would be the one to deliver it.

The following day he decided that, regardless of Virgil's still-weak state, he had to get him out of Arizona now or he would be the next to be taken out. At the same time, the coroner Dr DM Mather held an inquest into Morgan's death and discovered that Marietta Duarte, the wife of well-known outlaw Pete Spence knew something and was ready to talk, as she had been habitually abused by Spence. Duarte told Matthew that the day before Morgan's assassination she had overheard her husband talking with Florentino 'Indian Charlie' Cruz. Apparently, Morgan had walked by and she had heard Spence say to Charlie, "That's him, that's him."

Duarte also said that this same night, Indian Charlie and Frank C Stilwell came to Spence's house, armed with pistols and carbine rifles, and that they all talked

outside for a while in hushed tones. The following morning, when Marietta confronted Spence about the night's activities, she recounted that Spence hit her and threatened to shoot her if she spoke to anyone about what she had heard. Spence, Stilwell and Cruz were now the prime suspects in Morgan Earp's murder.

Duarte was called to testify this in court and did so, Wyatt looking on from the rear of the courthouse. However, thanks to the then-antiquated legal system, Duarte's testimony was dismissed because a spouse could not testify against her husband. Learning of the judge's decision to free the men Wyatt knew the law could not be relied on to bring the outlaws to justice and realised the only way to put an end to his family's bloodshed would be to kill them all himself.

Arrangements were made to escort Virgil and his wife to the train station in Contention City, which they were to board on 20 March and leave the state. Upon arriving, news was received that Frank C Stilwell and others were hunting Virgil and waiting



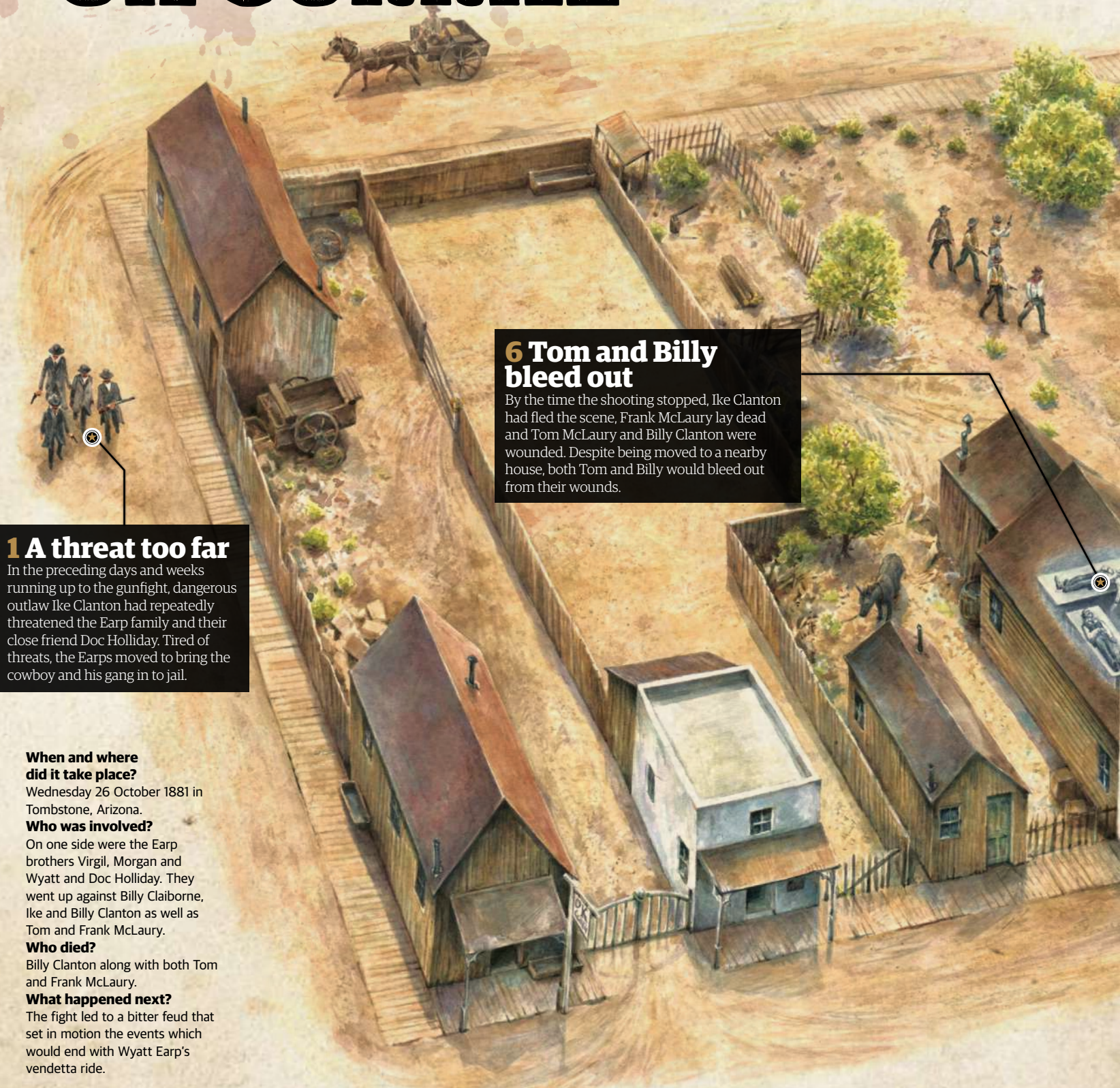
Before he became a man of the law, Wyatt Earp worked numerous jobs, including as a buffalo hunter and saloonkeeper



In the Wild West saloon bars were often where vendettas were settled



# SHOOT-OUT AT THE OK CORRAL



## 1 A threat too far

In the preceding days and weeks running up to the gunfight, dangerous outlaw Ike Clanton had repeatedly threatened the Earp family and their close friend Doc Holliday. Tired of threats, the Earps moved to bring the cowboy and his gang in to jail.

### When and where did it take place?

Wednesday 26 October 1881 in Tombstone, Arizona.

### Who was involved?

On one side were the Earp brothers Virgil, Morgan and Wyatt and Doc Holliday. They went up against Billy Claiborne, Ike and Billy Clanton as well as Tom and Frank McLaury.

### Who died?

Billy Clanton along with both Tom and Frank McLaury.

### What happened next?

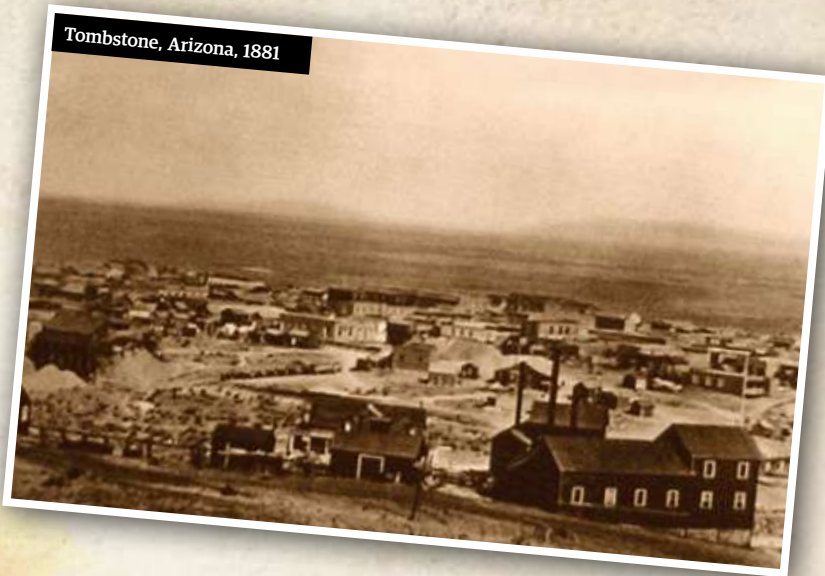
The fight led to a bitter feud that set in motion the events which would end with Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride.

## 6 Tom and Billy bleed out

By the time the shooting stopped, Ike Clanton had fled the scene, Frank McLaury lay dead and Tom McLaury and Billy Clanton were wounded. Despite being moved to a nearby house, both Tom and Billy would bleed out from their wounds.



Tombstone, Arizona, 1881



## 4 A double-barrelled death

After two opening revolver shots, one from Billy Clanton one from Virgil, the latter hitting Frank McLaury in the stomach, Doc Holliday moved around Tom McLaury's horse and surprised him with a double-barrelled shotgun blast. Tom tried to escape down the street but collapsed.

## 3 Fast on the draw

Upon discovering the cowboys Virgil Earp shouted, "Throw up your hands, I want your guns!" Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton moved to draw and cock their six-shooters. Virgil yelled, "Hold! I don't mean that!" but it was too late and the shooting began.

## 2 Not OK

The location of the Shoot-out at the OK Corral was actually not directly at the building, but in a narrow lot six doors west of its rear entrance. When the Earps and the Clanton gang faced off, they were only about 1.8m (6ft) from each other.

## 5 McLaury gunned down

A chaotic exchange of gunfire then occurred, with Billy Clanton shooting Morgan Earp across the back, wounding his shoulder and he himself being hit in the wrist. Frank McLaury exchanged shots with Doc Holliday but was then shot through the head and killed instantly.

in Tucson - the next stop on Virgil's intended trip to California - to murder him. As such, Wyatt and his men remained with Virgil up to Tucson.

After spending a night in a nearby hotel before escorting Virgil and his wife to the train the next morning, Wyatt spotted two figures lying in wait on a nearby flat-car; Frank Stilwell and accomplice Ike Clanton. Years of experience as a lawman mixed in with the culminate rage of months of death, threats and living in fear and Wyatt Earp ran full speed, shotgun in hand, at the men. Seeing Wyatt and Doc Holliday approaching, Stilwell and Clanton turned to run, but Stilwell tripped and fell. Scrambling around in the dust of the train yard, Stilwell attempted to regain his footing but it was too late; Wyatt was on him. A double-barrelled shotgun pointing directly at his chest at point-blank range, Stilwell caught a glimpse of the burning hatred within Wyatt's eyes before both barrels were unloaded into his torso.

Stilwell's short scream was immediately terminated with the blast, with six buckshot holes blown through his body and powder-burnt holes on the back of his coat. Drawing his .44 Schofield Smith & Wesson revolver from his holster, Wyatt carefully aimed for Stilwell's head and then fired a single round into his skull. Stilwell had been a lying, double-crossing, murdering rabid dog. There was only one thing to do with rabid dogs - put them down. Leaving Stilwell's corpse to grow cold in the early morning sun, Wyatt and his posse watched as the train with Virgil and his wife on slowly pulled out of the station, bound for California and safety.

The gang made their way back to Tombstone but back in Tucson the remains of Stilwell had been discovered and his killing linked to the Earp posse. Tucson Justice of the Peace Charles Meyer issued arrest warrants for all five members of the

View of the OK Corral





## WANTED

👉 The outlaws 👈  
marked for death

### WILLIAM 'CURLY BILL' BROCIUS 1845-1882



A violent criminal, cattle rustler and assassin, Curly Bill was the leader of the outlaws responsible for the murder of Wyatt Earp's brother Morgan. He was known as 'Arizona's most famous outlaw' and spent most of his time leading up to the vendetta ride robbing stagecoaches and threatening rivals with a bloody death.

### PETE SPENCE 1852-1914



Pete Spence was a well-known outlaw in Arizona, robbing stagecoaches and rustling cattle. He was a friend and business partner of fellow outlaw and killer Frank Stilwell, who along with Spence, was a key suspect in the assassination of Morgan Earp.

### FRANK C STILWELL

1856-1882



A miner and livery stable owner who was known to partake in illegal activities, Stilwell was famously identified as one of the outlaws who had ambushed and murdered Morgan Earp. Lack of evidence saw Stilwell walk free of any punishment, placing him high up on Wyatt Earp's vendetta kill list.

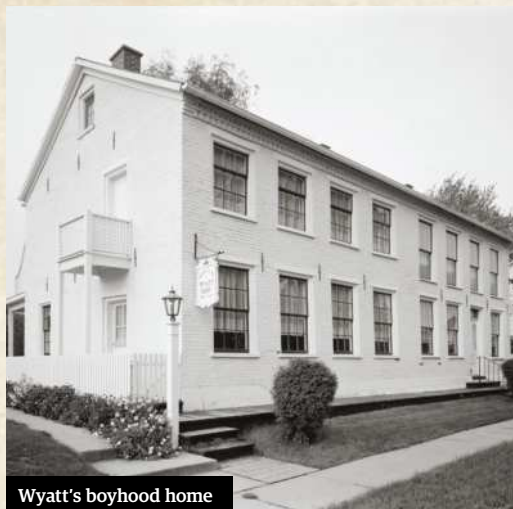
posse and sent a telegram back to Tombstone, stating that Sheriff Behan should arrest them. What Meyer couldn't have known, however, was that the telegraph office manager was a friend to the Earp family and upon receiving the telegram showed it to Wyatt when he rode into town.

The gunslinger knew that if his old adversary Behan saw the telegram he would try to stop the vendetta posse in its tracks, so began preparing a quick exit from Tombstone. However, Behan had rushed to the hotel and found the men he was looking for in the lobby, heavily armed and about to leave. Walking straight up to Wyatt Earp he told him that he was to accompany him back to the sheriff's office. Wyatt ignored him before walking through the lobby and outside.

They were met outside the hotel by further members of the posse, John 'Texas Jack' Vermillion and Dan 'Tip' Tipton, Charlie Smith, Fred Dodge, Johnny Green and Lou Cooley. Continuing to ignore an increasingly irate Behan they saddled up and rode out of Tombstone.

The following morning, on 22 March, Wyatt rode into Spence's woodcamp in the South Pass of the Dragoon Mountains. A quick inspection of the area revealed that Spence wasn't there - in fact, he had become so paranoid that Wyatt was going to kill him that he had handed himself in to Sheriff Behan's custody for protection. Wyatt was unaware of this and so decided to make one final search of the premises to make sure Spence wasn't hiding like the coward he knew he was. He suddenly saw

"Stilwell had been a lying, double-crossing, murdering rabid dog. There was only one thing to do with rabid dogs - put them down"



Wyatt's boyhood home



A photo of Wyatt Earp, circa 1882



OK Corral casualties - Tom and Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton in their coffin after being killed at the famous gunfight



movement, a figure running out to the rear and diving into the scrub. It wasn't Spence though, it was Florentino 'Indian Charlie' Cruz, Spence's right-hand man.

Wyatt drew his pistol but couldn't get a clear shot, so called for his men. Holliday, McMaster and Johnson were the fastest, drawing and firing from multiple positions at the fleeing Cruz, who was hit simultaneously in the arm, thigh and pelvis, bringing him crashing into the dust. Cruz's cries of anguish echoed throughout the pass as he started to bleed out, all the time attempting to crawl into cover. Wyatt was on him, quick as a flash though and Cruz started begging for his life. When questioned about the assassination of Morgan he confessed that he had been the lookout. As Wyatt pressed down on Cruz's wound with his spurred boot, a scream curdled out of Cruz into the pass and he shouted the names of the killers. William 'Curly Bill' Brocius. Frank Stilwell. Hank Swilling. Johnny Ringo. As he said each name, a death sentence was passed on them.

Cruz started shouting that Wyatt had got what he wanted and that he should leave him alive and send him back to Tombstone. There was only one place Wyatt was going to send Cruz, though - straight to hell. Drawing his pistol, he placed it to the side of the assassin's head and, punctuated only by a

## HUNTING A LAWMAN

### The sheriff chasing down Wyatt Earp

A key player not just in Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride but also the famous shootout at the OK Corral, Johnny Behan was the sheriff of Cochise County in Arizona Territory during both. After the climactic gunfight at the corral, Behan famously testified against the Earp family, saying they precipitated the shootout and therefore murdered three outlaw cowboys in the encounter. The Earps were later exonerated, however, and so started a bitter feud between them and Behan.

While he was known to think himself a model of law and order, Behan in fact had a checkered life, with his wife leaving him in June 1875 for taking a mistress and sleeping with prostitutes. He was also particularly violent toward women, threatening them consistently, both verbally and physically. Behan also liked to associate and deal with known outlaws while off official business, dealing with cowboys such as Ike Clanton, Johnny Ringo and William Brocius, all three who were instrumental in the maiming of Virgil Earp and the murder of Morgan Earp.

Following Behan's famous confrontation with Wyatt Earp in the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Tombstone, and then failed pursuit of Wyatt and his vendetta posse, Behan fell into another feud with his own deputy Billy Breakenridge. Breakenridge accused Behan of misappropriation of illegal monies and after

an investigation Behan was shown to have set aside \$5,000 from unknown sources while sheriff. While Behan escaped jail, he failed to be renominated as sheriff of Cochise County and was stripped of his rank and authority months after Wyatt left the state.



Behan was stripped of his rank soon after the vendetta ride



The gunfight at the OK Corral made the news

## LAW AND ORDER – WILD WEST STYLE

Was there any system of justice in the American Old West?

The American frontier was huge and there was no standardised law enforcement agency keeping control in the Wild West. As such, criminals found many opportunities to rob pioneer families, while what law there was found it difficult to track them down and bring them in, let alone provide concrete evidence that would see them sentenced in court. It was this system that infamous cowboys such as Jesse James, Billy the Kid and Butch Cassidy thrived.

The result of this lawlessness and lack of authority led to many people taking the law into their own hands - as evident by Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride - with the law's apparent impotence to combat outlaws, driving them to take extreme measures. This led to a culture of feuds, bounties and vengeance killings, with rival groups taking turns to avenge one another's latest illegal act. The natural conclusion of this

ramshackle tit-for-tat system of justice was that it often led to violence for mere perceived threats, rather than real acts of criminality. The end point for anyone successfully apprehended by law or outlaw was death, typically by shooting or hanging.

Further, the line between legal and illegal, good and bad, justified and cruel, was blurred in the Old West, with outlaws in one state perceived as respected lawmen in the next. Sheriffs, who are often depicted in films as bastions of honour and virtue, were often ex-outlaws themselves who had gained their position through violence and threats, ruling their territory like medieval barons. It was only when the USA became developed enough to establish a true federal system of law and order in the late-19th century that crimes like horse stealing, highway robbery, duelling and cattle rustling were effectively combated.



A horse thief being hanged in the American Old West



final scream from Cruz, pulled the trigger. A single trail of gunsmoke from his pistol rose slowly into the air. One down, three to go.

So, it had been Curly Bill Brocius who had orchestrated the murder. He should have known that his old enemy from the OK Corral was the mastermind behind his family's enduring misery. Wyatt and his posse saddled up their mounts and headed straight for Brocius' old prowling ground, the Whetstone Mountains.

The posse searched the surrounding area for the next two days, to no avail, eventually arriving at Iron Springs in the Whetstone Mountains. The area looked to be empty when the posse stumbled onto a group of cowboys cooking dinner alongside the spring. It took only a split-second for Wyatt to identify Brocius and, in a heartbeat, he dismounted from his horse, grabbed his double-barrelled shotgun and burst around a ridge and down into the men's camp with Texas Jack, Doc Holliday and McMaster hot on his heels. Wyatt walked toward purposefully Brocius, his long trench coat flapping behind him in the wind.

Panic broke loose in the camp, with the outlaws all scrambling for their weapons. Like a rattlesnake, Brocius weaved to his own shotgun and turned



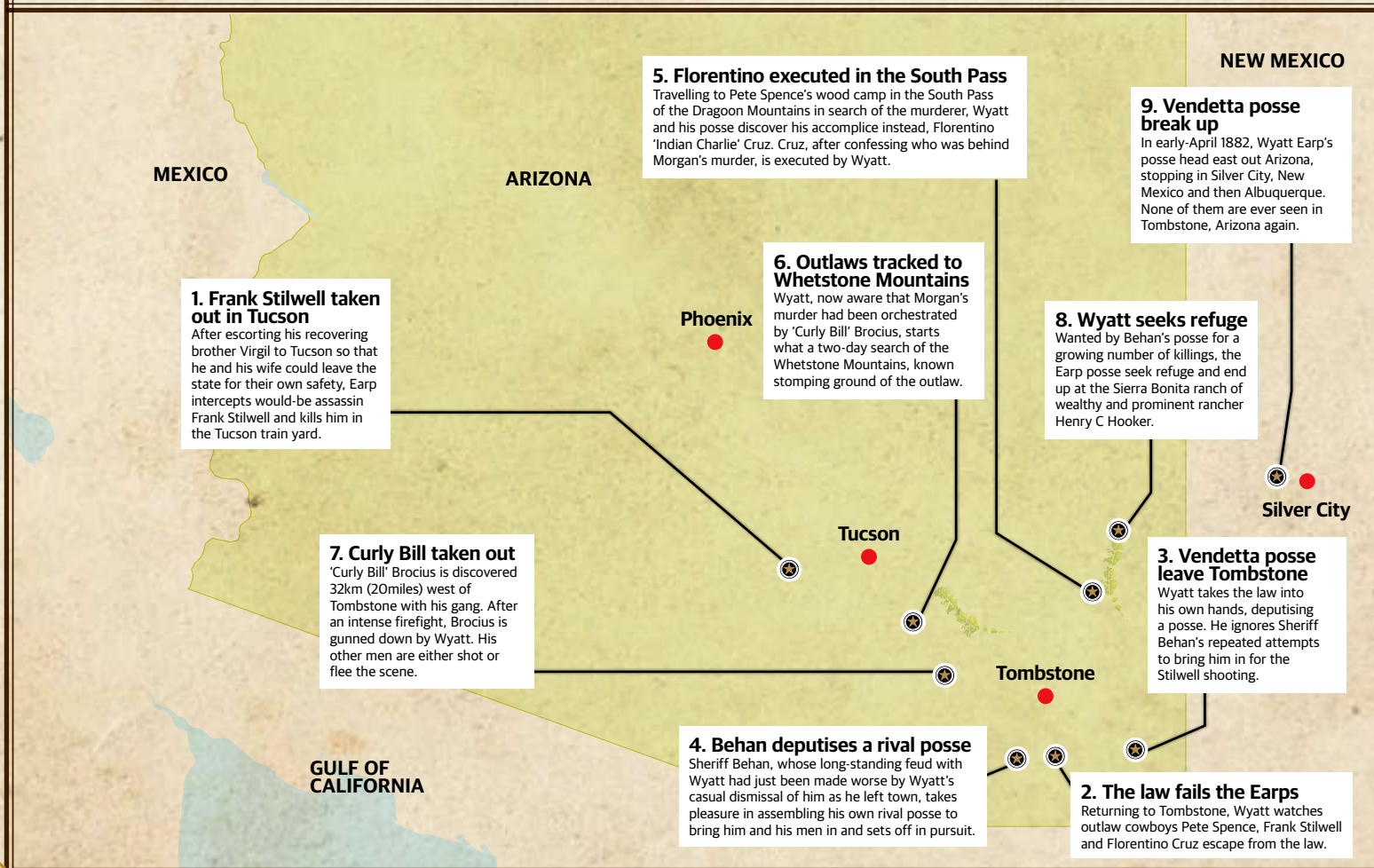
Before he became a lawman, Wyatt Earp was one of the co-owners of the Oriental Saloon



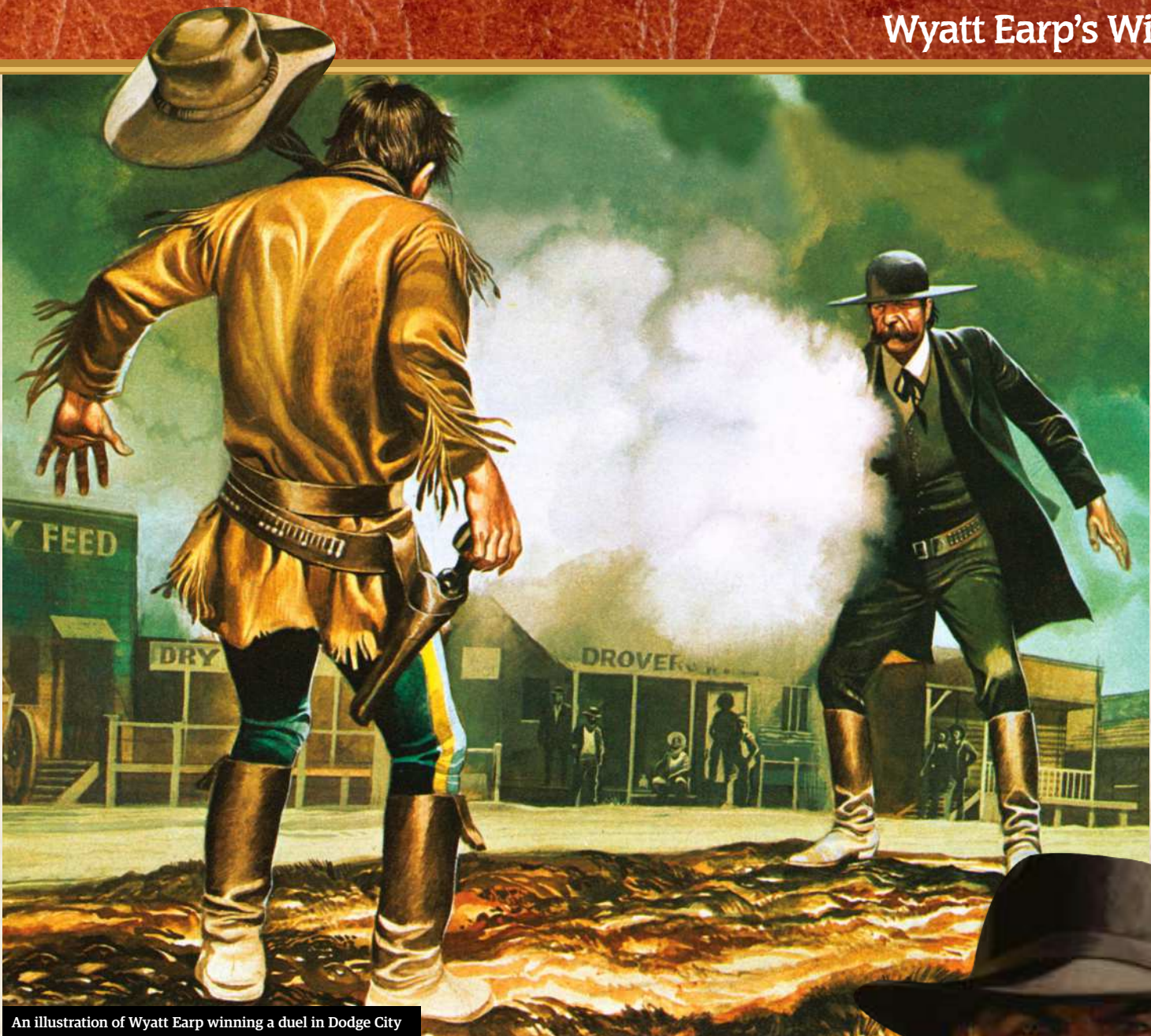
## MAP OF THE VENDETTA RIDE



Follow the key events of Wyatt's vendetta ride







An illustration of Wyatt Earp winning a duel in Dodge City

“Drawing his pistol, he placed it to the side of the assassin’s head and, punctuated only by a final scream, pulled the trigger”

and fired at the advancing Wyatt, but missed the avenging town marshal. Texas Jack, who was sticking closely to Wyatt, drew his dual pistols and began firing at the outlaws. Brocius’ men began firing back, rounds hitting Wyatt’s coat and even Texas Jack’s horse, which was killed instantly. Doc Holliday, McMaster and Johnson moved to cover and started shooting; while Texas Jack, after exhausting all the rounds in his pistols, dashed to his fallen horse in an attempt to retrieve his rifle.

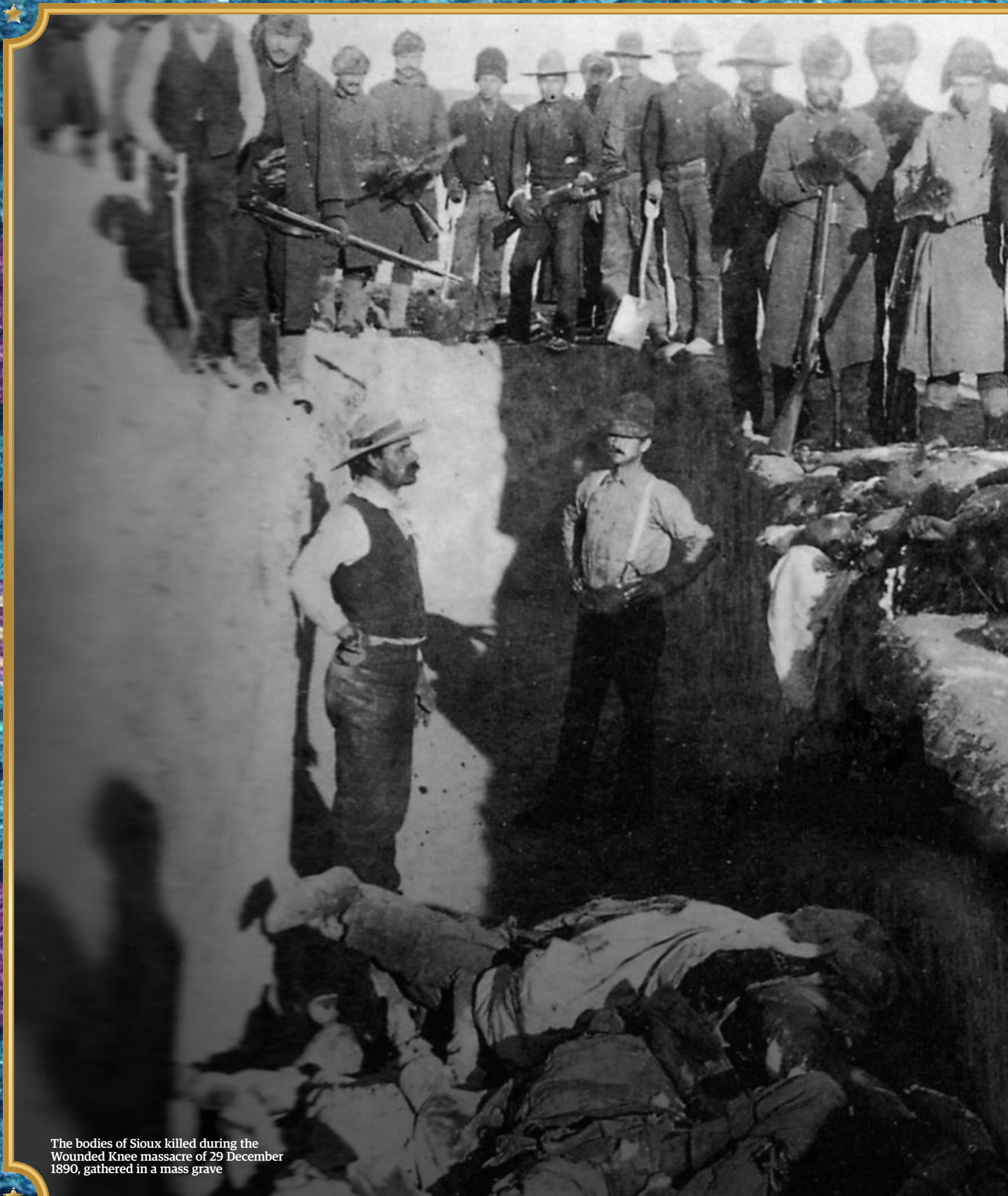
During the chaos, Wyatt Earp had never taken his eyes off Brocius and calmly advanced on the killer. Time slowed and, with an unshakable purpose, Wyatt raised his shotgun, aimed directly at Brocius at point-blank range, and watched as the killer of his brother was blown in two. Seeing their leader dead, the rest of Brocius’ party fled, but not before Wyatt had continued his rampage by killing Johnny

Barnes with a gunshot round to the chest and wounding Milt Hicks with another shot.

The rest of Wyatt Earp’s vendetta ride ran its course in the only way it could. Wanted by the law, Wyatt and his posse could not return to Tombstone. As such, after making a couple of stops at safe houses, most of his posse headed east out of Arizona. Behan never did catch them and after arriving in Albuquerque, New Mexico, they went their separate ways. Vengeance had been delivered with an efficiency and brutality that would permanently affect the lives of all the men involved and cement their reputation as legendary figures. Justice - Wild West style - had been served.







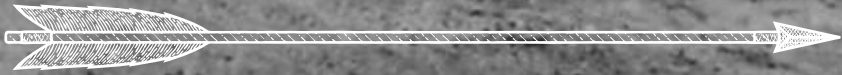
The bodies of Sioux killed during the Wounded Knee massacre of 29 December 1890, gathered in a mass grave







# THE TRAGIC MASSACRE AT WOUNDED KNEE



A single rifle shot ignited the horrific massacre of Sioux men, women, and children at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota

**T**he buffalo had been hunted to near extinction, treaties with the United States government had been violated, and the proud Native Americans of the Great Plains, relegated to reservations, were dependent on agents of that very government for their survival. By the winter of 1890, the fortunes of the Sioux, Cheyenne, Paiute and other tribes had reached a new low. Perhaps only the intervention of their gods could right the wrongs that had been done to them.

The hope of such intervention was exactly what Paiute shaman, or holy man, Wovoka offered. A new mystic movement began to rise among the people, and Wovoka was not only its messenger, he proclaimed himself to be the messiah, saviour of the Native American people. He preached that they should return to their old way of life, discontinuing

any embrace of the white man's ways. If they did, the dead would rise, the earth would return to its natural, verdant state. Game would once again be plentiful, and the vast prairie would be open and welcoming of their nomadic wanderings.

To hasten the restoration of the old order, Wovoka preached that the Indians should dance the ghost dance, a slow, rhythmic ritual to the beat of a single drum. Some of the dancers donned shirts that bore images of the buffalo and other sacred wildlife. These shirts, it was believed, were impervious to bullets fired from the white man's rifles.

Wovoka's followers grew in number and spread from Paiute villages to neighbouring tribes. In the autumn of 1890, the Lakota Sioux sent envoys to the shaman to learn the ghost dance. They brought the rite back to the Sioux settlements.

The mysticism of the ghost dance and the revival of Indian fervour alarmed the white settlers, including the agents of the federal government who were responsible for Indian affairs. At the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, the local agent telegraphed his concerns to Washington DC. "Indians are dancing in the snow and are wild and crazy," he warned. "We need protection, and we need it now. The leaders should be arrested and confined at some military post until the matter is quieted, and this should be done now."

While every agent or officer of the US Army in Indian territory did not share the same concern, measures were taken to quell the prospects of an uprising and to ensure the safety of the settlers of the plains. The authorities believed that Sitting Bull, a revered Sioux holy man of the Hunkpapa band



who had led warriors in the victory over Lieutenant Colonel George Custer and the 7th Cavalry Regiment at Little Bighorn years earlier, might lend his support to the burgeoning ghost dance phenomenon and moved to take him into custody.

It was initially hoped that William 'Buffalo Bill' Cody might persuade Sitting Bull to surrender peacefully. However, Indian Agent James McLaughlin insisted that Native American police make the arrest. On 15 December 1890, about 40 Native American officers went to Sitting Bull's home at Standing Rock Reservation. A crowd gathered to demonstrate against the arrest, and a shot rang out as Sitting Bull tried to pull away from one of the arresting officers, who was killed instantly. More shots were fired, and Sitting Bull ended up being mortally wounded by police officers Bull Head and Red Tomahawk.

The death of Sitting Bull stirred fear among the Sioux at Standing Rock, and about 200 fled toward the Cheyenne River Reservation where Chief Spotted Elk, also known as Big Foot, was located with his Miniconjou band. On 23 December, Spotted Elk and approximately 350 Miniconjou and Hunkpapa set out for the Pine Ridge Reservation, where the great chief Red Cloud might offer sanctuary and leadership during the turbulent period.

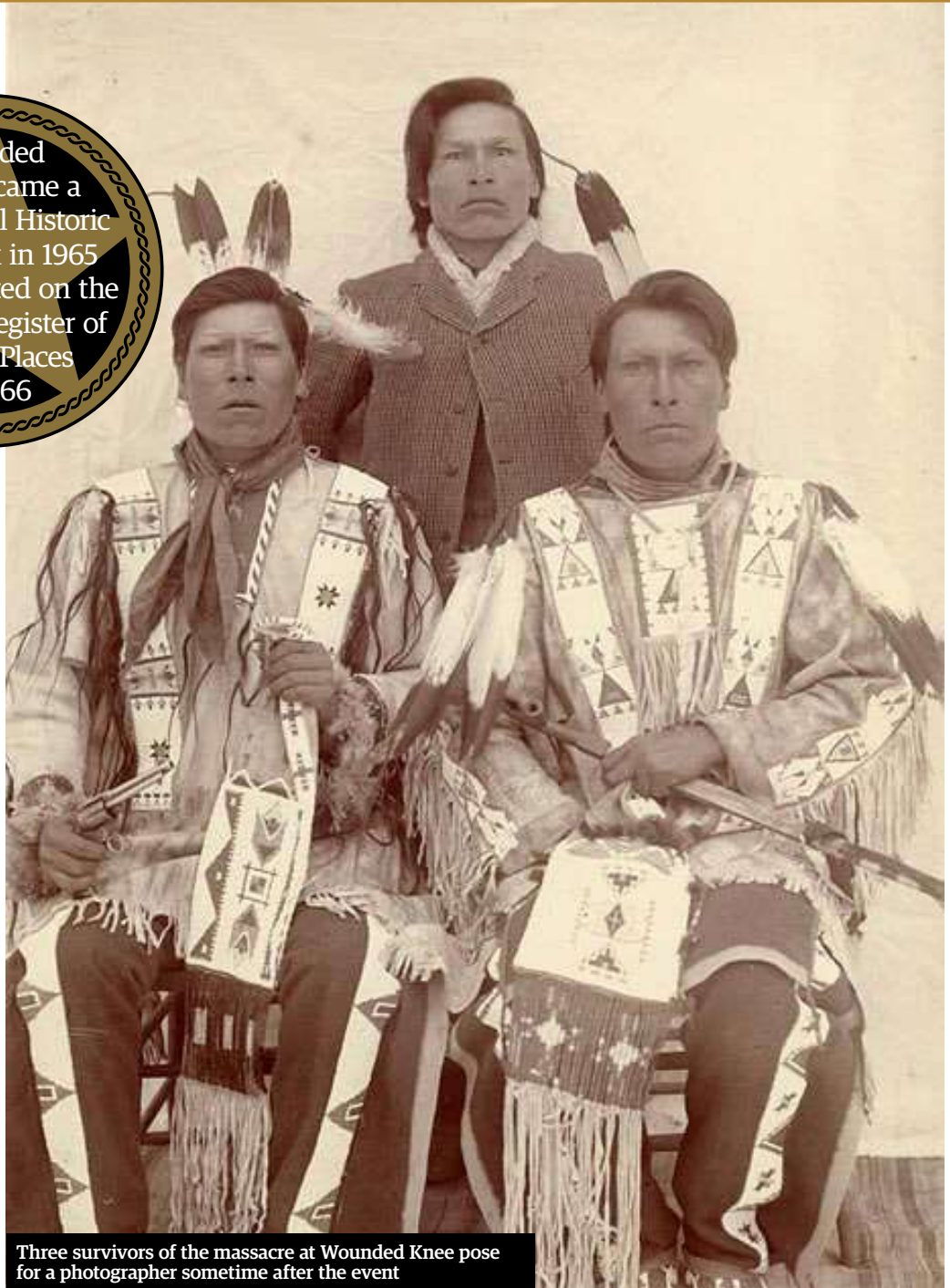
As they made their way slowly toward Pine Ridge, Spotted Elk's small company, which probably included about 200 women and children, was intercepted near Porcupine Butte on 28 December by a detachment of the 7th Cavalry under Major Samuel Whitside. The cavalrymen diverted the Sioux to the banks of Wounded Knee Creek about eight kilometres to the west, where they were told to make camp. That evening, Colonel James Forsyth, commander of the 7th Cavalry, arrived with the remainder of the regiment.

Approximately 500 troopers surrounded the indigenous Americans on the morning of the 29th, and Forsyth ordered the soldiers to confiscate their weapons and move them toward trains to take them out of an area that had been designated a zone of military operations. A search of the camp turned up 38 rifles, but it was clear that some of the Sioux were reluctant to part with their guns. While the elderly Spotted Elk, already seriously ill with pneumonia, and a few other Sioux negotiated with Forsyth, a shot was heard in the camp. Violence erupted.

Eyewitness accounts vary, but one explanation of the unfolding tragedy asserts that a deaf Sioux brave named Black Coyote refused to part with his rifle, either because he could not understand the orders he was given or because he had paid a large sum of money for it. As Black Coyote wrestled with soldiers, another Sioux, Yellow Bird, incited the gathering to resist. At least one ghost dancer began performing the ritual, tossing dirt into the air, and the soldiers probably considered the act a provocation.

In the midst of Black Coyote's scuffle with the soldiers, it is believed by many that his rifle discharged. At that moment, some witnesses attested that at least five Sioux braves pulled rifles from beneath blankets and fired at 7th Cavalry

**Wounded Knee became a US National Historic Landmark in 1965 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966**



Three survivors of the massacre at Wounded Knee pose for a photographer sometime after the event

troopers. The response was swift. The soldiers started firing into the surrounded Sioux, and four 42mm Model 1875 Hotchkiss mountain guns began blasting away. More braves drew weapons while their women and children fled toward a nearby ravine. Within seconds, officers lost control of their men, and the indiscriminate shooting continued. Soldiers on horseback chased Natives who ran from the melee, while many were shot where they stood amid the deadly crossfire.

Philip Wells, an Army scout of mixed blood, witnessed the unfolding massacre and recalled, "I heard someone on my left exclaim, 'Look out! Look out!' I saw five or six young warriors cast

off their blankets and pull guns out from under them and brandish them in the air. One of the warriors shot into the soldiers, who were ordered to fire into the Indians."

Captain George D Wallace, commanding Troop K, 7th Cavalry, was killed early in the fight.

"A bullet, striking him in the forehead, plowed away the top of his head," remembered Wells.

General Nelson A Miles, commander of the Military Division of the Missouri, advanced the story of Black Coyote and the accidental rifle shot but added, "A large number of women and children who tried to escape by running and scattering over the prairie were hunted down and killed."

**Sitting Bull and a band of 20 Sioux braves made appearances in William 'Buffalo Bill' Cody's celebrated Wild West Show**



# The Tragic Massacre At Wounded Knee

While Wells' account is that of an eyewitness, it is likely that there was culpability on both sides. The tension was high, and in the heat of the confrontation an accidental discharge of a weapon does appear as the likely catalyst. Certainly, it is questionable whether the Sioux, surrounded, outgunned, and with many women and children, would have initiated a battle.

When the shooting ended, at least 150 Sioux men, women and children, including Spotted Elk, had been killed. Some estimates of Sioux dead run as high as 300. Fifty-one Native Americans were wounded, and at least seven of these later died. Twenty-five soldiers were killed, some probably by friendly fire.

After the encounter at Wounded Knee, first referred to as a battle and only later as a massacre, a great blizzard swept the plains. When three days of bad weather subsided, civilian burial parties gathered the bodies of the dead Sioux and interred them in a mass grave. The massacre effectively ended the ghost dance movement and is considered to mark the end of the bloody wars between the United States and the Native Americans of the Great Plains.

Today, activists point to Wounded Knee as a prime example of the brutality with which the US government suppressed Native Americans. In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement chose Wounded Knee as the symbolic site for a 71-day occupation to call attention to their plight. A century after the massacre, the US Congress passed a resolution expressing "deep regret" for the terrible event.

Colonel  
James Forsyth  
and Major Samuel  
Whitside of the 7th  
Cavalry were veterans  
of the American  
Civil War

Historians  
have speculated  
that 7th Cavalry  
troopers massacred  
the Sioux at Wounded  
Knee in revenge  
for Custer's Last  
Stand at Little  
Bighorn

The body of Sioux leader Spotted Elk lies frozen in the snow after he was killed during the massacre at Wounded Knee



Plains Indians perform the ghost dance to revive their old way of life, threatening white settlers of the Great Plains

## Medals for massacre?

More than a century after the massacre at Wounded Knee, controversy continues to swirl around the horrific encounter. Among the points of perennial contention is the awarding of 20 Congressional Medals of Honor to US soldiers who participated in the massacre or the campaign that led to it.

During the years that followed Wounded Knee, numerous soldiers received the medals for gallantry during the so-called 'battle.' However, time has yielded conclusions that dispute the nature of the event to such a degree that the term is hardly descriptive of the manner in which as many as 300 Sioux - more than 60 of them women and children - died. One of the original citations commends a soldier for "bravery displayed while shooting hostile Indians," despite the fact that his own commanding officer recalled that the trooper did actually "deliberately aim at and hit two Indians who had run into the ravine."

The number of Medals of Honor awarded for Wounded Knee invites scrutiny. Some researchers conclude that the criteria for the award at the time were somewhat different from those of later conflicts. Regardless, as recently as 2001, Native American organisations have criticised the awards and called upon the US government to rescind them.

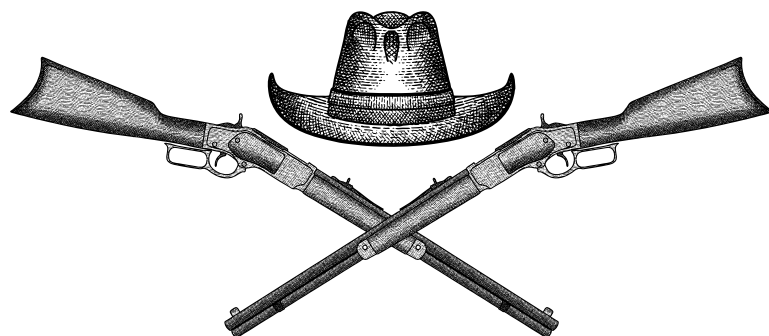


Troopers of the 7th Cavalry open fire as they surround Spotted Elk's Sioux followers early during the Wounded Knee massacre



Colonel James Forsyth led the 7th Cavalry at Wounded Knee. He retired from the Army as a Major General





# BUTCH CASSIDY

His exploits with the Wild Bunch captured the imagination of the public and even his death became the stuff of legends. Is Butch Cassidy the most infamous figure of the Wild West?

**S**ay the name Butch Cassidy and it's hard to not immediately think of the Sundance Kid and the 1969 film. Its story of two wise-cracking buddies is so ingrained in culture as to be taken as fact. But it isn't fact. For a start, Cassidy and Sundance were not best friends. They did flee to Argentina together, but that was more opportunity than choice. But even if the film didn't nail it in terms of accuracy, that is not to say that Butch Cassidy's life wasn't full of thrills, adventure and intrigue.

Born Robert Leroy Parker on 13 April, 1866, in Utah, Cassidy's parents were staunch Mormons. His dad, Maximillian Parker, was 12 when he arrived with his family in Salt Lake City in 1856, and they became American Mormon pioneers.

Cassidy's childhood was spent on his family's ranch, but perhaps sensing that the Mormon life was not for him, he left home during his early teens. He supported himself by working on various ranches, and it was while at a dairy farm that he started to get drawn into the criminal world.

Mike Cassidy (real name John Tolliver McClammy) was a cowboy and rustler and soon-to-be mentor and friend of the young Parker. In fact, it's said that Robert dropped his Parker surname in favour of Cassidy in honour of his friend, adding it to his nickname of Butch. It is also said that the name change was due to a desire to not disrespect

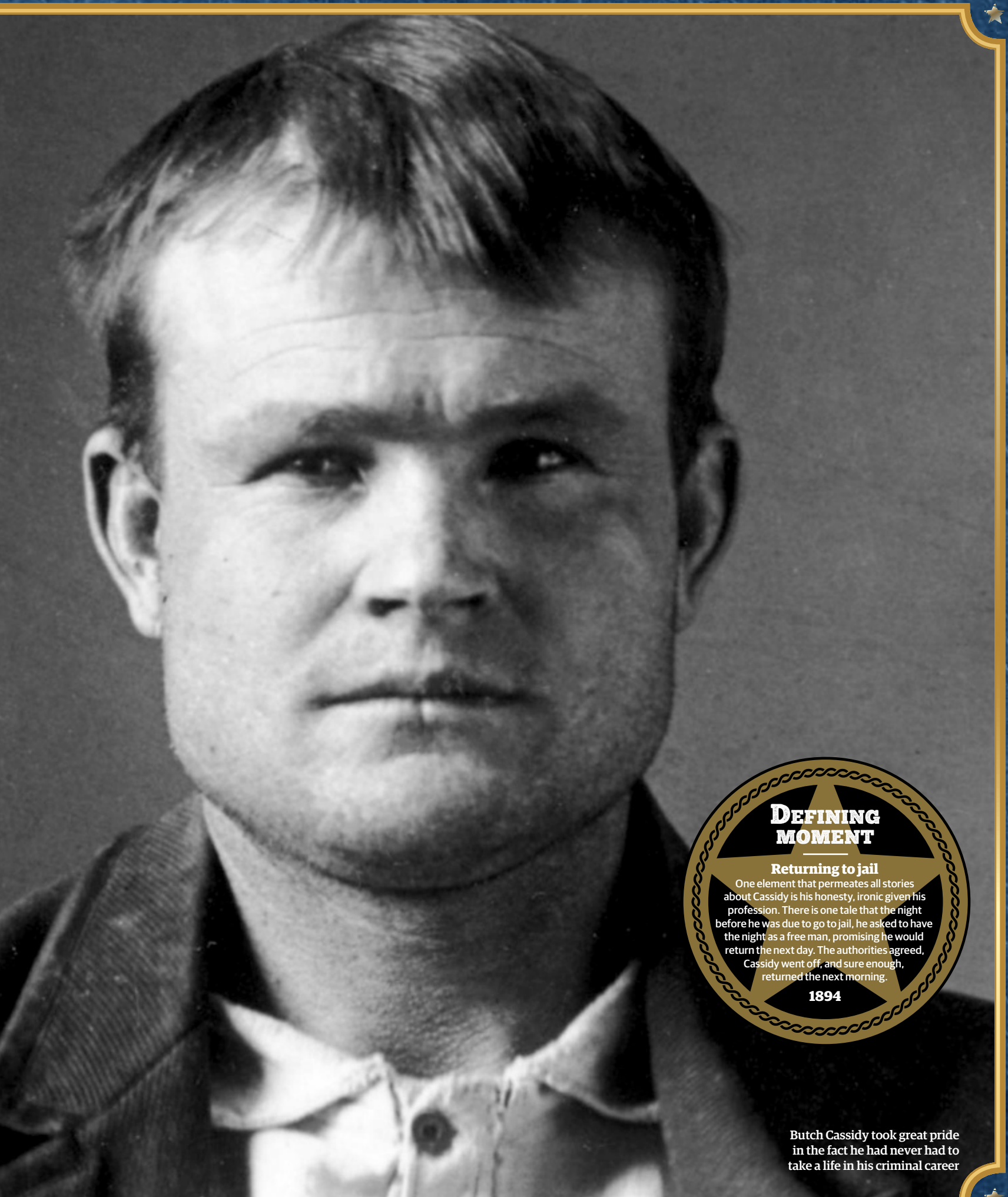
his family, as at the time he had a feeling his path would take a significant diversion from the Mormon lifestyle he had been brought up to believe in.

For a while Butch continued to move between ranches, living the life of a cowboy in Wyoming and Montana until he gravitated to Telluride, Colorado, in 1887. After striking up a friendship with race horse owner Matt Warner some time earlier, Cassidy robbed his first bank.

It was the 24 June, 1889, and Cassidy, Warner and the two McCarty brothers helped themselves to about \$21,000 from the San Miguel Valley Bank. The crew didn't hang around for long, making their way to the Robbers Roost, an area of rough terrain in southeast Utah. The natural canyons made this a popular hideout, and in fact it was while Cassidy and his best friend Elzy Lay were lying low there that they established the beginnings of the Wild Bunch.

When the heat had died down, Cassidy made his way to Wyoming, where he bought a ranch on the outskirts of Dubois. Although it's possible he did this in an attempt to earn an honest living, the fact he never actually made any money from it and that the location was just over from another outlaw hangout – the Hole in the Wall – suggests the ranch was a front for nefarious activities. There's also the fact he was arrested in 1894 for stealing horses and possibly running a protection racket among ranchers.





## DEFINING MOMENT

### Returning to jail

One element that permeates all stories about Cassidy is his honesty, ironic given his profession. There is one tale that the night before he was due to go to jail, he asked to have the night as a free man, promising he would return the next day. The authorities agreed, Cassidy went off, and sure enough, returned the next morning.

1894

Butch Cassidy took great pride in the fact he had never had to take a life in his criminal career





Cassidy served 18 months of a two-year sentence at the Wyoming State Prison, where upon his release in 1896 he was pardoned by Governor William Alford Richards. While some may have taken the pardon as an opportunity to turn their life around and walk the straight and narrow, it did absolutely nothing to quash Cassidy's criminal tendencies. After his release from jail, Cassidy went on to fully form the Wild Bunch and forever seal his place in the Wild West hall of fame.

Perhaps fittingly for a bunch of thieves, the gang's name was literally taken from the Doolin-Dalton Gang (also known as the Wild Bunch) and consisted of a rag-tag crew of criminals. In addition to Cassidy and his best friend, William Ellsworth 'Elzy' Lay, the core gang consisted of Harvey 'Kid Curry' Logan, Ben Kilpatrick, Harry Tracy, Will 'News' Carver, Laura Bullion and George 'Flat Nose' Curry.

Other members would come and go, including Harry Alonzo Longabaugh (The Sundance Kid), who Cassidy recruited not long after leaving jail. But it was this core group who went on to perform the longest stretch of successful train and bank robberies in American history.

They wasted no time. Cassidy, Lay, Logan and Bob Meeks targeted the bank in Montpelier, Idaho on 13 August 1896. This first robbery set off a chain of others, taking the gang across South Dakota, Wyoming, Nevada and New Mexico. Their hauls would range from just a few thousand to \$70,000 from a train outside Folsom, New Mexico.

Rather than encourage the ire of law-abiding citizens, the public were enamoured with their adventures, almost rooting for them to do well. Some of the reason for that could be because Cassidy had a bit of a Robin Hood persona, often sharing his loot with local people who were struggling to get by.

Although seen as the leader of the gang, Cassidy was always a little bit removed from his criminal colleagues. For a start, he took great pride in the fact he had never killed anyone in his criminal career. If being chased, his preferred defence was to shoot the horse carrying the person chasing him. However, this refusal to shed human blood did not extend to his criminal comrades, many of whom had no qualms about killing people – usually officers of the law – during close pursuits.

Wilcox, Wyoming, became the location of the most famous and most destructive Wild Bunch robbery. On 2 June 1899, the gang robbed a Union Pacific Overland Flyer passenger train. There was a shootout with the law following the robbery, which saw Kid Curry and George Curry kill Sheriff Joe Hazen. The gang got away with \$30,000.

For Cassidy, the robbery had serious ramifications. The train was carrying gold to pay troops in the Spanish-American War, and by robbing it he was deemed to have committed an act of terrorism. From that robbery onwards, Cassidy and the Wild

Bunch were targeted as national terrorists, with a reward of \$18,000 if caught,

dead or alive. Even though it's doubtful Cassidy robbed the train – one of the terms of his 1896 pardon was to not commit a crime in Wyoming, and Cassidy was a man of his word – it put the gang firmly in the sights of local law enforcement and the infamous Pinkerton Detective Agency. Yet still they robbed.

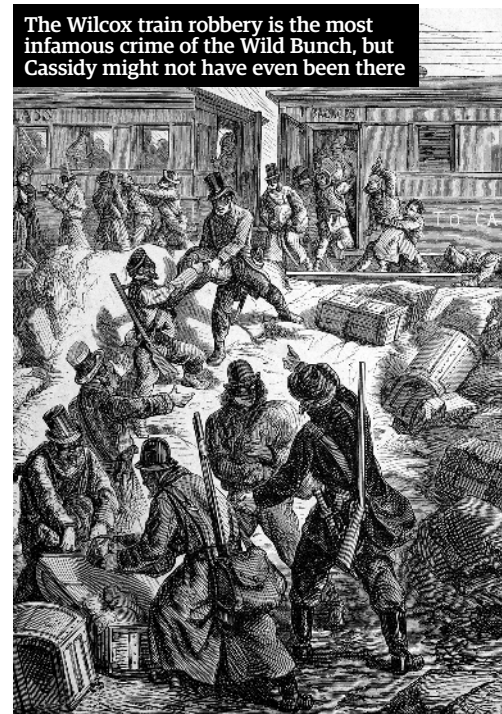
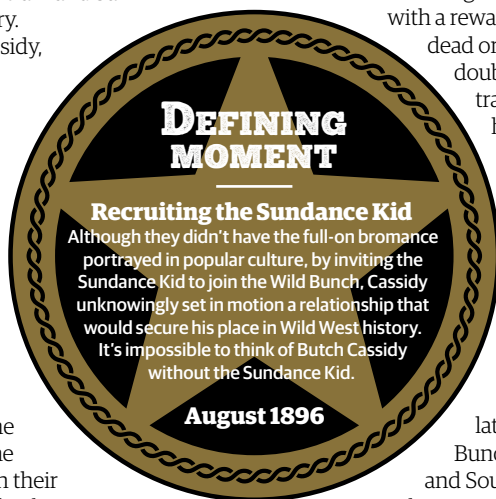
In fact, just a few weeks later on 11 July, the Wild Bunch robbed a Colorado and Southern Railroad train near Folsom, New Mexico. Another shootout

with law enforcement ensued, and this time Cassidy's best friend, Elzy Lay, killed sheriffs Edward Far and Henry Love. Lay was eventually caught and convicted for his crimes. He was sentenced to life

imprisonment for the double murders, but he was pardoned in 1906.

Things then went from bad to worse. During 1900 and 1901, various members of the Wild Bunch were either shot or captured. It was too much for Cassidy. He had gone from being seen as a cowboy Robin Hood to feeling suffocated by the law, so he fled to New York City with Sundance and his girlfriend, Etta Place, and then on to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in February 1901. They bought a ranch and settled down for a few years. But the peace was not to last.

The Pinkerton Detective Agency had been hired by Union Pacific after the Wilcox robbery to hunt down Cassidy, and it was very good at its job. Agent Frank Dimaio had learnt of Cassidy's location, and everything was in place to make an arrest. However, a local sheriff who had become friends with Cassidy tipped the trio off, so in May 1905 they made their escape north, ending up in Chile. Then for some



## When did Cassidy actually die?

One of the most memorable scenes from the 1969 *Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid* film is the great shootout at the end, with both going down in a blaze of glory. But there have been many theories that Cassidy did not die in Bolivia, that he instead returned to America to live out the rest of his days in peace.

One of the most interesting theories came from a 1978 TV series called *In Search Of...* It focused on an argument made by Wild West historian Charles Kelly in his 1938 book *The Outlaw Trail: A History of Butch Cassidy And His Wild Bunch*. In it, Kelly states that if Cassidy was alive he would have visited his father, and because he didn't do so he must have been dead.

In the episode, residents of Baggs, Wyoming, all state that Cassidy visited during 1924. There was also an interview with Cassidy's sister, Lula Parker Betenson, who says that not only did he visit his father, but he went on to live out his life in Washington. Betenson's 1975 book, *Butch Cassidy, My Brother*, also states that Cassidy told her he had got a friend to say one of the bodies in Bolivia was his so he could live a life free of pursuit. And before you dismiss the theory as fanciful, remember that there is no actual evidence either way!







## DEFINING MOMENT

### Fort Worth Five photo

The Pinkerton Detective Agency became the main adversaries of Cassidy and his Wild Bunch, but it is the Fort Worth Five photo that put a face to their targets. Cassidy, Sundance, Logan, Carver and Ben Kilpatrick posed for the photo in Fort Worth, Texas. Once the detective agency saw the photo, they used it for their wanted posters.

**December 1900**

Left to right: Sundance, News Carver, Tall Texan, Kid Curry and Cassidy

reason, they returned to Argentina, and not only did they return, but they also robbed a bank. Now being pursued for certain, they moved back to Chile.

But it was too much for Etta Place. Sundance took her back to San Francisco while Cassidy took an alias of James 'Santiago' Maxwell and worked at the Concordia Tin Mine. Sundance eventually joined him there. In 1907, the pair moved to Santa Cruz, apparently to lead the life of ranchers. But somehow it all went wrong.

On 3 November 1908, in Bolivia, a courier for the Aramavo Franke and Cia Silver Mine was transporting his company's payroll, worth around 15,000 Bolivian pesos. Two masked Americans attacked and robbed him, before lodging in a small boarding house in a nearby town. But the owner was suspicious of the lodgers.

After alerting a nearby telegraph officer, on the night of 6 November, soldiers, the police chief, the local mayor and his officials all surrounded the boarding house, waiting to arrest the robbers.

Things didn't quite go to plan. The robbers started to shoot, killing one soldier and wounding another. The gunfire was returned and before long an all-out

gunfight had erupted. Then there was a scream, a shot and then another shot. Silence followed.

The authorities entered the boarding house the next morning and found two dead bodies. One had a bullet wound in the forehead, while the other had one in the temple, in addition to various bullet wounds in the arms and legs. The police report assumed that one robber had shot his partner to spare him further agony before then killing himself.

The report also concluded that the two bodies were the men who had robbed the courier, but there were no other forms of identification, although it was assumed that the bodies belonged to Cassidy and Sundance. They were buried in a small cemetery in unmarked graves. It was an inauspicious end to an action-packed era of looting and shooting, and perhaps not one that suited the legend of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

However, death was by no means the end for this notorious duo. While the eponymous 1969 film is the most widely recognised tribute to them, its sequel, *Butch And Sundance: The Early Days*, released in 1979, is just one more example of many media portrayals of their famous escapades.



The Sundance Kid and girlfriend Etta Place, taken while in New York before heading to Argentina







Between  
1865 and  
1890, more than  
half a million black  
'freedmen' and their  
families moved  
to the frontier  
territories

A prairie schooner on the  
Blue Mountain Crossing of  
the Oregon Trail, now part  
of a National Park





# THE CLOSING OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

When the director of the US Census Bureau announced the 'closing of the frontier' in 1890, the Wild West lost its wildness

**W**hen the 13 colonies of British-Americans declared their independence in 1776, the territory of the new American nation lay entirely between the Atlantic coast and the Appalachian foothills. The adventurous and the heavily armed might enter the Ohio Valley, a wild terrain of forests and native tribes, but the vast tracts of the Great Plains and the Far West were pretty much obscure to European settlers, and avoided as the 'Great American Desert'.

Nor was the new American government the only government on the North American continent. The British ruled in Canada. The French ruled the southern territories around the Mississippi Delta. The Spanish ruled in Florida and, through their empire in Mexico, in the future states of California and Texas.

The 'pioneer spirit' is a legend, grounded in two distinct facts. The United States of America were

created by the settlement of immigrants from Europe and emigrants from the cities of the eastern seaboard. Their 'frontier' was the furthest limit of settlement, the last farm in a chain of colonies reaching hundreds of kilometres back to the first settlements of Jamestown, Virginia and Plymouth, Massachusetts. The United States were also created as a political ideal, sprung from a written constitution. For the government, the 'frontier' was a legal and political boundary.

These two 'frontiers' did not align until 1890. In the December of that year, the US Census Bureau announced that the frontier line, which had been inching west ever since the first European settlement, had disappeared. The frontier had dissolved into the Pacific Ocean, or met up with the extant borders of California, Oregon and Washington. The Census Bureau also noted that no further tracts of land remained beyond the authority of the government in Washington DC, and that the

population density of the United States now stood at two people per square mile.

The frontier was closed. This was a watershed in American history, and in Americans' understanding of themselves. The previous three centuries had seen the gradual expansion of European settlement from the Atlantic coast, over the Appalachian Hills, into the Old Northwest and the Mississippi Valley, and on to the Plains, the Old Southwest and the Far West. Americans had built their ideal selves in the image of these facts. The values of the pioneer were individualism, toughness and self-sufficiency, a rough democracy that defined itself by opposition to European manners.

The United States changed dramatically in the half-century between the War of 1812 and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. As the populations of the East states rose through immigration from Europe, waves of emigrants set off west in search of arable land. The government in Washington



DC laid the ground for settlement in advance, by negotiating the expansion of the frontier for cash.

In the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the US government paid \$15 million for more than 800,000 square miles of French-held territory; at present value, a bargain at around \$250 billion. In 1818, Britain and the US agreed to a 'joint occupation' of the Oregon territory, in the Pacific Northwest. In the Transcontinental Treaty of 1819, the Spanish ceded Florida and their claim to Texas. In the 1820s, Russia acknowledged that its claim to Alaska stopped at Alaska's current southern boundary.

The economic depression of 1837 sent a sudden wave of emigrants west with 'Oregon Fever'. The 3,218-kilometre Overland Trail began at Independence, Missouri, crossed the Great Plains to the Continental Divide, and entered the Far West via the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains. From there, the wagon trains of 'prairie schooners' headed north to Oregon or south to California. Some 300,000 people made the six-month journey in the decades before the Civil War. Most were young families, but young men, hoping to find a fortune in the gold fields, were disproportionately represented.

By the 1840s, there were ten American settlers in the Oregon Territory for every British settler, and the government in Washington, DC was asking the British to renegotiate the 'joint occupation'. Meanwhile, the populism and agricultural economy that had underpinned 'Jacksonian democracy', named after President Andrew Jackson, became an industrial economy driven by debates over slavery and the emancipation of women. This

optimistic 'Age of Reform' ensured that America's democratic experiment had not only survived, but was prospering. America's resources, including the vast expanses of land in the West and the constant flow of immigrants from Europe, would continue to allow its further development from a peripheral state into a world power.

The 'Expansionists' realised that the settlement of the West was absolutely essential for the fulfilment of this vision. They also viewed it as the continuation of America's original vision, which was the expansion across the continent of self-government and democratic institutions. This universal vision would frequently draw upon convictions of religious and racial superiority. The language of Expansionism identified America's destiny with the Protestantism and Anglo-Saxon origins of the early settlers.

In the settling of the West, it was argued that God's will was made manifest.

In 1845, John L O'Sullivan, the editor of the *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, pinpointed this particular brew of ambition, hope and bigotry. It was, O'Sullivan wrote, "the fulfilment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions".

Manifest Destiny was not a prescription for government policy, so much as a description of what was already taking place. By the early 1840s, the final lineaments of the American frontier territories were key electoral issues, capable of making a President or breaking a party. In 1840, when President John Tyler announced his support for annexing the

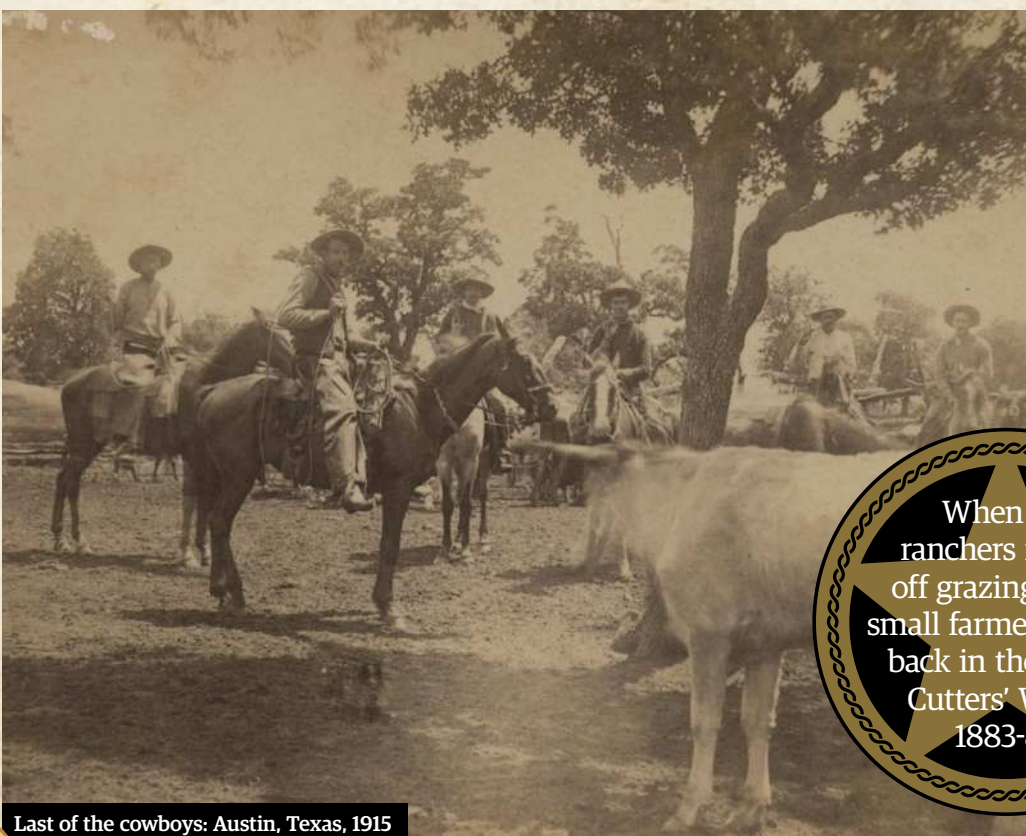
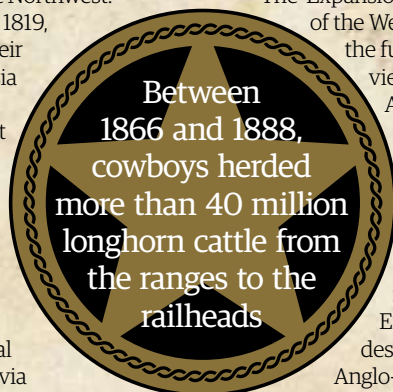
self-declared Republic of Texas, where thousands of Americans had now settled, Tyler's Whig party supporters deserted him.

The Presidential election of 1844 turned on the annexation of Texas, and the status of the Oregon Territory. The Democratic Party's nomination contest between former President Martin Van Buren, who opposed annexing Texas, and Tennessee senator James Polk, who advocated for pushing America's borders southwest towards the Rio Grande, ended in a victory for Polk and manifest destiny.

In December 1844, one of outgoing President Tyler's last acts in office was to engineer a pro-annexation resolution from both houses of Congress. In March 1845, one of incoming President Polk's first acts in office was to order American troops southwest to the Nueces River. In May 1846, Polk declared war on Mexico.

The Whigs divided yet again over 'Mr Polk's War'. Abolitionists in the Northeast were appalled that Polk was willing to incorporate the slave-holders of Texas into the Union without requiring them to free their slaves. Since the Missouri Compromise of 1820, abolitionist states and slaveholding states had agreed to disagree, but Polk now proposed to tip the balance in favour of the slaveholders, as the price of pushing the frontier west.

In Concord, Massachusetts, Henry David Thoreau, the author of *Civil Disobedience*, refused to pay his poll tax, and deliberately sought to spend a night in the town jail; a model of non-violent resistance that would inspire subsequent pacifists like Tolstoy, Gandhi and Martin Luther King. The general public, however, approved of Mr Polk's War.



Last of the cowboys: Austin, Texas, 1915



Horace Greeley, the newspaperman who may have coined the phrase, "Go West, young man"



"The United States will conquer Mexico," Thoreau's mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson warned, "but it will be as the man swallows the arsenic, which brings him down in turn." The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, imposed upon a defeated Mexico in February 1848, was a victory for Manifest Destiny, but one with extensive consequences.

The Whigs never recovered from their split over Texas, and rapidly dissolved into the Republican and Democratic parties. The entry into the Union of the slaveholders of Texas pushed the country further towards civil war. And with settlers already rushing west to the California Gold Rush, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo opened the ultimate prize - California - to the United States government.

The population boom that followed the Gold Rush led to California joining the Union in 1850. The discovery of gold at Pikes Peak in 1858 drew another 100,000 would-be miners to Colorado. Though few made their fortune and many died in the attempt, the miners were to accelerate Colorado's entry into the Union in 1876. Miners also flocked to extract silver from the 'blue earth' of Nevada, which entered the Union in 1864.

The Civil War shaped the future of American politics. The future of the American frontier was shaped in the midst of the Civil War, when Abraham Lincoln's administration passed the Homestead

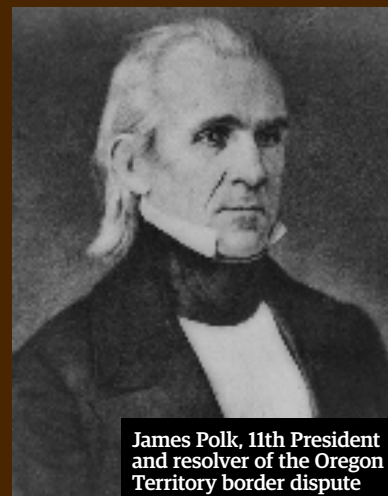
## 54 degrees, 40 minutes, or fight!

The Americans and the British fought two wars, the War of Independence (1776-1783) and the War of 1812. In the 1840s, they nearly came to blows for a third time over the Oregon Territory.

Under the 'joint occupation' agreement of 1818, the border between British-ruled Canada and the United States was fixed at the 49th Parallel from the Lake of the Woods in the Minnesota Territory to the Rocky Mountains. The British had wanted the rest of the border to follow the Columbia River west to the Pacific, but the Americans had wanted the border to follow the 49th Parallel. Unable to agree, the negotiators had agreed to wait ten years. In 1827, they agreed to disagree again, permanently postpone the issue.

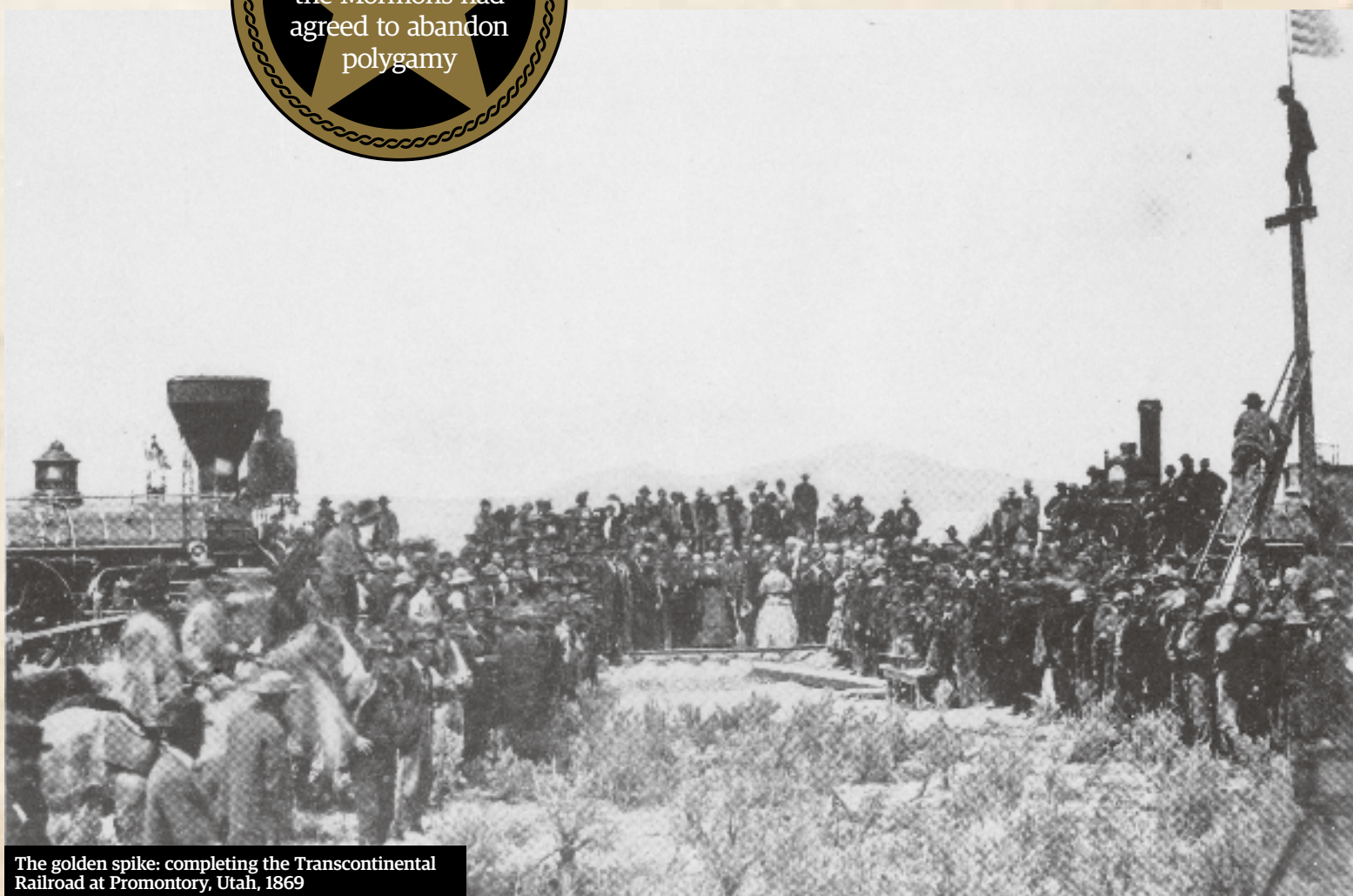
In the early 1840s, American immigration into the Oregon Territory caused a crisis. In Congress, there were calls for all-out war, and pushing the border north: "54 degrees, 40 minutes, or fight!" In 1846, President Polk proposed the 49th Parallel as the border, and the British accepted, with minor modifications, including the passing of Vancouver Island to Canada.

A subsequent dispute over the Juan de Fuca Strait, where the Salish Sea reaches the Pacific Ocean, was resolved by the intervention of international arbitration. The current Canadian-American frontier runs down the middle of the 152-kilometre long strait. The Canadians dislike the results of the arbitration, but are wary of reopening another border dispute, far to the east in the Gulf of Maine.



**James Polk, 11th President and resolver of the Oregon Territory border dispute**

Utah became a state in 1896, after the Mormons had agreed to abandon polygamy



**The golden spike: completing the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory, Utah, 1869**



## The American Dream – or Dreams?

The world knows the 'American Dream' when it sees it, but in truth there have been several American Dreams. The phrase derives from the 1950s, and the affluence of the postwar Eisenhower era. The content, however, might describe any era of American history, from the first settlement to the present day.

The first Europeans in America dreamed of wealth, the profits of trading in silver, gold and furs. So did the indentured labourers who contracted themselves to commercial ventures for ten or 20 years. The Puritans who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620, however, dreamed of religious freedom, and the opportunity to build an ideal community. These are the two contrasting ideals at the heart of the American Dream.

The American Constitution manages to neatly combine both ideals, by promising 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'. The precursor to this phrase comes from the English philosopher and physician John Locke, who thought that the government should ensure the 'life, liberty and property' of its subjects, but not much more. The belief that owning property might make you happier remains strong in Anglo-Saxon and Protestant countries. Almost all Americans own their own homes, and home ownership is much more common in the United Kingdom and Scandinavia than in southern Europe.

Dream imagery recurs in modern American politics, too. "I have a dream," Martin Luther King said, as he campaigned for racial equality. When Ronald Reagan campaigned for the Presidency in 1980 on a promise of economic revival, he revived a Puritan image of America as "a shining city on a hill". More recently, when President Obama tried to legalise the status of the children of undocumented immigrants, he called his proposal the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act: the DREAM Act.



A 1956 Cadillac Coupe de Ville symbolises the American Dream – and American restlessness

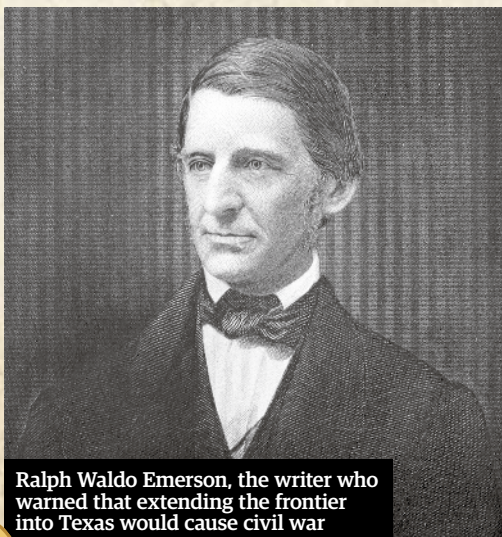


Act of 1862. This guaranteed up to 160 acres of land in the Great Plains to any farmer who staked a claim. After six months on the land, the farmer would have the right to buy his land from the government at \$1.25 per acre. If the farmer lived on it for five years, he received the title for free.

The Homestead Act sparked a wave of westward emigration from Easterners seeking to escape the Civil War. The end of the Civil War saw a further wave, this time of 'freedmen'; Southern blacks who had been freed from slavery.

When the war ended, Horace Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, issued orders to the next waves of emigrants: "Go West, young man."

The frontier territory, already contracting through settlement and the creation of new states, was



Ralph Waldo Emerson, the writer who warned that extending the frontier into Texas would cause civil war

further condensed by a second initiative of 1862. At the time, the railroad network ran from the Eastern cities to the eastern bank of the Missouri River.

From there, settlers crossed the Great American Desert, the Great Plains, by wagon.

Lincoln's government recognised that none of America's railroad companies could afford to lay a railroad across the Great American Desert, so it hired two companies to complete the Transcontinental Railroad.

The Union Pacific company was engaged to lay 1,747 kilometres of track west from the Missouri River, across the Great Plains, and over the Rockies. The Central Pacific company was engaged to lay 1,108 kilometres of track running east from Sacramento in California, up to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. On 10 May 1869, Leland Stanford, governor of California, conducted the 'wedding of the rails' at Promontory, Utah, and completed the railway by nailing a golden spike.

Soon, further railroads crisscrossed the country. The railroads shaped the final development of the frontier. Farms and towns grew up along the lines. The mining industry grew, as the trains ferried ore back to the East for processing. The government's reach extended, because communications had accelerated – the telegraph cable soon snaked along the railroad lines – and because troops could be moved quickly across the country.

The railroad companies had extracted favourable terms from a government caught in a civil war. For each mile of track it laid on level ground, each

company received \$16,000 and a further 6,400 acres of federal land. In the following decades, the 'robber barons' of the railroads profited further by selling their land to settlers, or fencing off huge areas for

sheep and cattle ranching. The 'open range' was closing. In 1873, Joseph Glidden invented a cheap way of fencing off the huge ranches that grew up after the railroad – barbed wire.

The railroad made and unmade the cowboy. Cattle had to be herded from their ranges in Texas and the Plains to the giant stockyards which sprung up at the new railheads. From there, the cattle were shipped east in railroad cars. After the Civil War, some 40,000 ex-soldiers found new work as cowboys, driving herds of as many as 10,000 cattle to the stockyards. The Chisholm Trail ran 805 kilometres, from central Texas to Abilene, Kansas. The Western Trail to Dodge City was shorter, but the Goodnight-Loving Trail, from Central Texas to New Mexico to Cheyenne, Wyoming, was a whopping 1,126 kilometres.

As the railroad network grew, the trails got shorter. After the invention of the refrigerated railroad car in the 1870s, cattle were slaughtered at the closest railhead, or at Kansas City and Chicago. The cowboy, that hero of the frontier, was heading for the sunset. So was another fixture of frontier mythology; the Pony Express courier. And while the railroad gave a last burst of glory to the cowboys, it was simply fatal for the indigenous people of America.

The Native Americans had already been pushed west with each stage of white emigration. The US



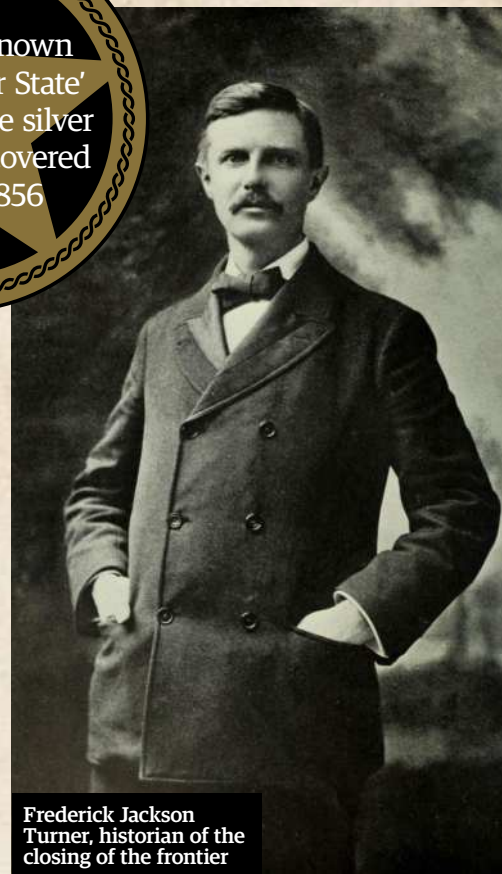
The railroad companies tripled their profits to \$48,000 per mile in mountainous areas



# The Closing Of The American Frontier



Big Foot's camp after the massacre at Wounded Knee in 1890, the year that the frontier closed



Frederick Jackson Turner, historian of the closing of the frontier

government, always susceptible to pressure from public opinion back east, and often so weak in the frontier territories that it was not able to fulfil its good intentions, was complicit with the violent extirpation of the Native Americans from their ancestral lands. The survivors were corralled into reservations. These were reserved because white settlers could not find a use for the land. In cases where the settlers did find a use - a gold rush in South Dakota, for instance - the Natives were forced to move once again.

The Oklahoma Land Rush of 1899 was the last wave of emigration before the frontier officially closed. At noon on 22 April 1889, more than 50,000 men, women and children stampeded on wagons and horseback into 2 million acres of erstwhile Indian Territory in central Oklahoma. In the same year, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Washington entered the Union. Idaho and Wyoming followed in 1890.

When Frederick Jackson Turner, a young historian at the University of Wisconsin, heard that the Census Bureau now considered the frontier closed, he realised that a chapter of American history had closed too. In 1893, Jackson Turner read a paper to the American Historical Association, entitled *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*.

The idea of the frontier, as a lived fact and a legal fact, had shaped not just America's internal and external borders. It had shaped the experiences of those Americans who had 'gone West' to seek

their fortune or to seek a living diet from the soil. It had also shaped the experiences of those who had remained 'back East', for distance did not weaken their zeal for expansion. The frontier, Turner believed, had been the zone in which the ideal of the American character had been shaped and tested.

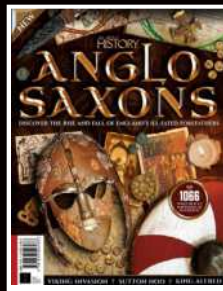
Frontier life encouraged democracy, practicality, and what Emerson called 'self-reliance'. For the same reasons, the frontier also encouraged contempt for high culture, and an over-reliance on violence. American democracy, Turner argued, was 'born of no theorist's dream'. It came 'out of the American forest'.

American democracy retained the ideal of the frontier, even as the United States became the world power of the 20th century. The internal empire of the Plains, the Southwest and the Far West had been conquered. New frontiers would be found outside America's borders in the imperial conquest of Cuba in 1898, and in President Kennedy's exhortation that the United States beat the Soviet Union in the 'space race' of the 1960s. As the voiceover of a popular television series said, space could be America's final frontier, an end to the restless expansion that had defined its history.

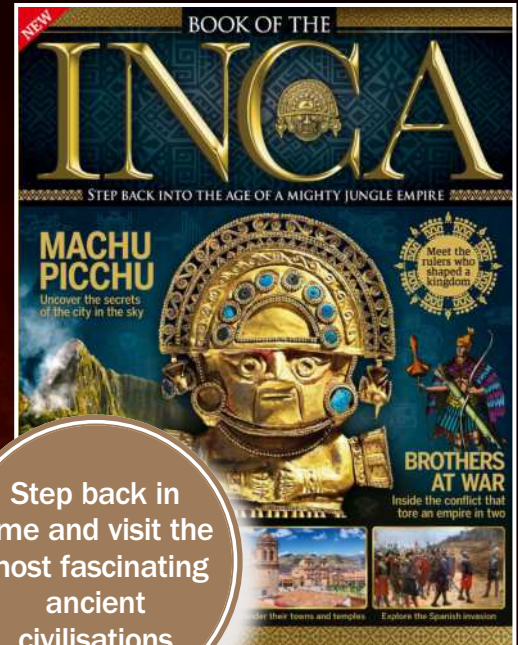


Interior of a shack built in Kansas after the Homestead Act of 1862

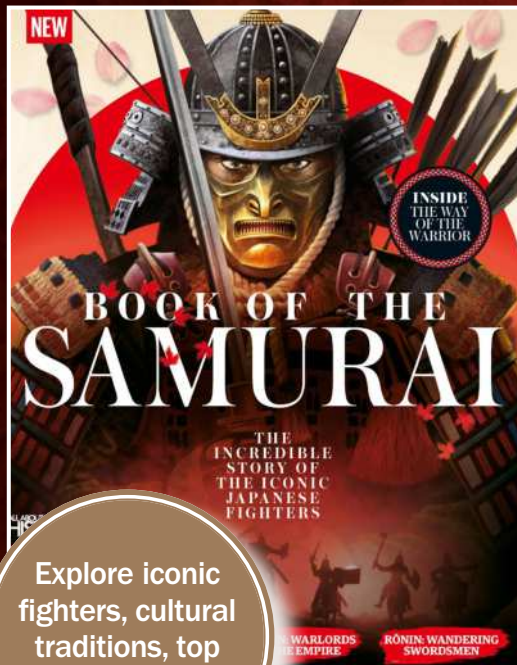
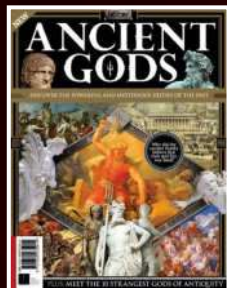
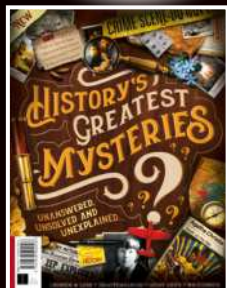




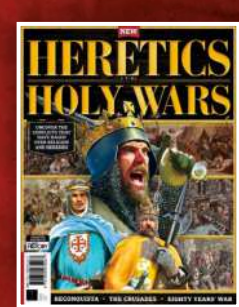
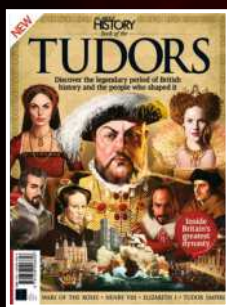
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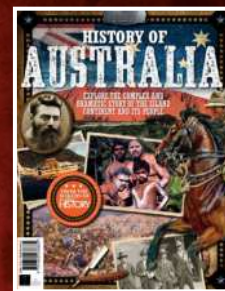
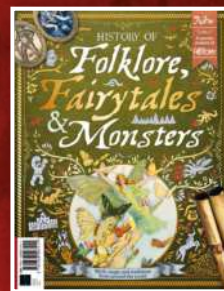
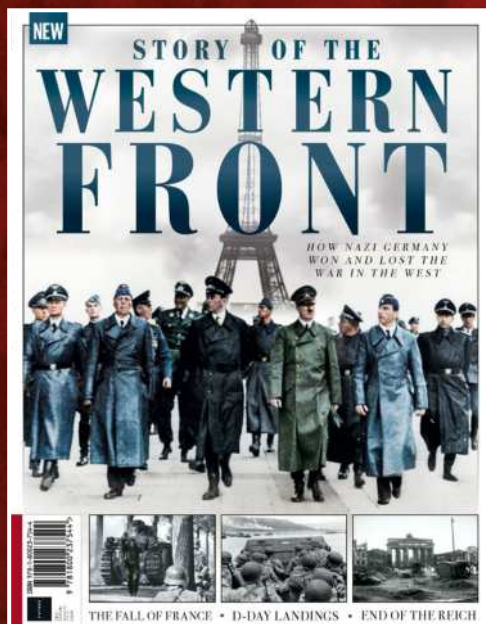
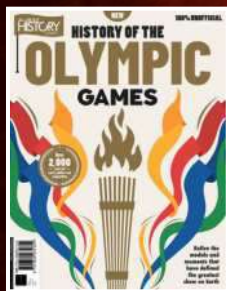


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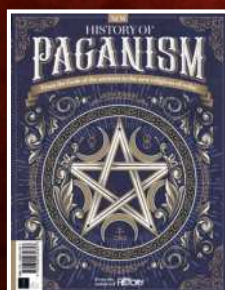
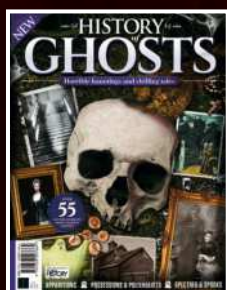
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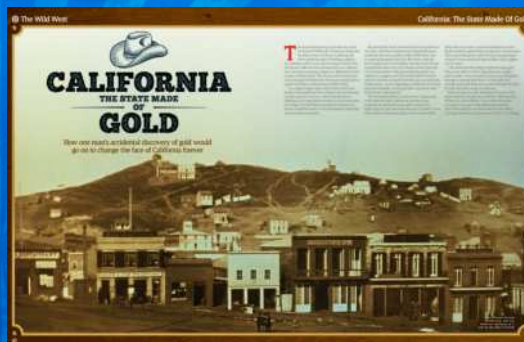
WHO GOT  
RICH FROM  
THE GOLD  
RUSH?

WERE  
SALOONS  
REALLY THAT  
DANGEROUS?



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Uncover the complete tale of the American frontier, from beginning to end



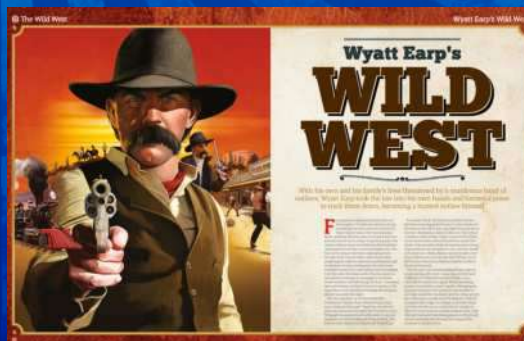
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THE OREGON  
TRAIL SO  
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